

Jan/Feb/Mar 2012

The Philadelphia Remnant



Dedicated to the memory of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and to the FAITHFUL Philadelphia Remnant of The TRUE CHURCH OF GOD Scattered Worldwide



“...I [will] seek out My sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away...” Ezekiel 34:12,16 KJV

The Philadelphia Remnant

Jan/Feb/Mar 2012

VOL. 6, NO. 1

CONTENTS

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----|
| Philadelphia Mission | Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong | 1 |
| Personal from the Editor | Mr. Alton 'Don' Billingsley | 5 |
| King James Bible | Mr. Mark Mendiola | 12 |
| Righteousness | Mr. Tom Cooper | 20 |
| Prophecy Now! | World leaders topple | 38 |
| Web sites, statistics | | 44 |

Cover: The flock of sheep pictured on the cover of this magazine represent the scattered brethren of God's True Church. (*Photo courtesy <http://phillip.greenspun.com>*)

The Church of God Faithful Flock, with headquarters in Valley Springs, California, humbly presents this magazine – *The Philadelphia Remnant*, which continues to provide a conduit for the work Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong spearheaded, the work of reaching out to people worldwide with the message of the soon-coming Kingdom of God through the preserved writings,

recorded telecasts, sermons and Bible study messages that Jesus Christ used him to do in his human ministry!

***The Philadelphia Remnant* has no subscription price. This magazine is provided free of charge. It is made possible by tithes and offerings of the membership of the Church of God Faithful Flock and others. Contributions, however, are welcomed and tax-deductible in the United States. Those who wish to voluntarily support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers in this effort.**

Entire contents copyrighted. The Church of God. All rights reserved. The copyright subsisting in material quoted in this publication and trademarks appearing in this publication belong to the respective ownership thereof and no claim of ownership therein is made by the Church of God.

BiblePictureGallery.com or Jupiter Images.com photos used as clip art.



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

DESIGN/LAYOUT

Mark Mendiola

WRITERS

Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley
Mark Mendiola
Tom Cooper
Duane Miller
Ed Tidwell

PHOTOS/GRAPHICS

Barbara Mendiola

PROOFING

Barbara Mendiola
Marie Duncan

COVER, WEB GRAPHICS

Jason Busa
Raymond Mills
Frank Olive

PUBLISHER

Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

CIRCULATION/BUSINESS MANAGER

Joseph Duncan

SECRETARY

Larry Burns

Published by
Church of God Faithful Flock
P.O. Box 130
Valley Springs, CA 95252
www.cog-ff.com

Mission of the Philadelphia Church

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

December 17, 1983

Greetings, everybody! This afternoon I want to speak on the mission of the Philadelphia era of the Church, this Church today, in comparison to the first Church, or the first era of the Church, the Ephesus era of the Church. It's been seeming more and more to me as the years go by that the Bible was written primarily for the Philadelphia era of the Church. It has not been understood previously to now. The Bible was not all written yet during the beginning of the Church during the Ephesian era, the first era of the Church.

Until close to the end of the first century, the Bible was not complete. There was no printing. Every copy had to be written carefully, slowly, one copy at a time by hand and by copyists. There were not very many of them. The average person never saw one. Much of the Bible had not been revealed yet, especially the book of Revelation, and I, II, III John, and the book of Jude, and most of the early Church never saw those books. They had been getting away from the truth as they had received it from the apostles and by the time Jude wrote, he urged the people to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered because they were getting away from it.

Most prophecy in the Bible refers to our time now and is concerned with our time, not with the time back in the first century, not in the Middle Ages. How many times do you find in the Bible "in that day" such-and-such will happen, "in that day," "in that day," again and again, espe-



MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

cially in the Old Testament prophecies, and it is referring to the time now and leading on into the Second Coming of Christ, the Coming of Christ the Messiah, and these events and these days just preceding when there is the greatest mission of the Church and that is the mission that has devolved down on us.

Today's mission of the Church you will find in Matthew 24 and in verse 14, "AND THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM," that is the same gospel that Jesus preached, "shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come."



Now, the early apostles had been asking Jesus about this time. They knew, they were somewhat familiar with the prophecies, especially prophecies like Isaiah and Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and then the so-called "minor prophets," Hosea, Amos, Micah, Daniel, all of those prophets and how many

times they said *“in that day.”* Jesus had said to them, He said, **“If I go, I will come again and receive you to Myself.”** *HE HAD TAUGHT THEM ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD* and He had taught them in a parable that He would have to go to heaven to receive the Kingdom and then to return, and that *we had to occupy or continue on the job that He had given us, until then.*

And so we read, beginning with the third verse in Matthew 24, and, incidentally *Matthew 24 I think might be called the principle book of prophecy so far as Jesus Christ is concerned,* of what Jesus Himself said. *Of course, the book of Revelation is THE book of prophecy of all of the New Testament,* and Matthew 24 is recording essentially the same thing that Mark 13 and Luke 21 is also recording, but *Matthew 24 goes into more detail and gives us a better summary of the entire thing.*

Now, Jesus had been with the disciples at the Temple and just outside of it. He was showing them the buildings of the Temple, and then as He sat on the Mount of Olivet, or the Mount of Olives a little later, His disciples had come unto Him privately, and there were about three or four of them that came to Him privately saying, *“Tell us, when shall these things be?”*



Now, what things did they refer to? In the first verse, you will see that He was telling them, showing them the buildings of the Temple and telling them that a time of trouble was coming and that all those buildings were going to be destroyed. There wouldn't be one stone left upon another of the buildings of the Temple.

Now, they supposed that that destruction was going to come at the time of the end, the end of this world, and the



Second Coming of Christ and the time of His return. *They knew that such a time was coming, the end of this world and THE BEGINNING OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD or the World Tomorrow.*

But they thought that that was going to occur at the same time, and they thought it was going to occur in their lifetime, and so they asked Him, **“When shall these things be?”** that He was talking about, the destruction of the Temple. But since they thought that was the same time as His Second Coming, they added this question, **“AND what shall be the SIGN of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?”** Because they thought that His Coming would end THIS world. He had talked to them about another world, *THE KINGDOM OF GOD.* So they asked Him about that.

Now, the first question that they asked was what He had just been talking about, the destruction of the Temple, and that did happen in their lifetime. He'd been talking to them along about 30 or 31 A.D. and the Church was finally established in 31 after Jesus had been crucified, resurrected and had ascended to heaven.

So Jesus answered first their first question, and said unto them, *“Take heed that no man deceive YOU.”* Deceive who? He didn't say “deceive people at the end of the world,

at the end time.” He was talking to His disciples, and He said even His disciples could be deceived. “Let no man deceive YOU.”

I tell you, brethren, it is very necessary that we understand one thing, especially in reading the New Testament. Where it says “you,” you need to know who He’s talking to. In most cases, He’s talking to the Church or to the apostles. The apostle Paul says “you,” and he’s talking very often, to one of the Churches. Jesus was talking to His apostles.

When the expression “they” is used, it usually refers to the outside world.
When the expression “we” is used, it’ll refer either to Christians or, in some cases, the apostle Paul might just be referring to the Jewish people as a nation, or religion, or race, or whichever you might call them, but Jesus said, “For many shall come in My Name.”

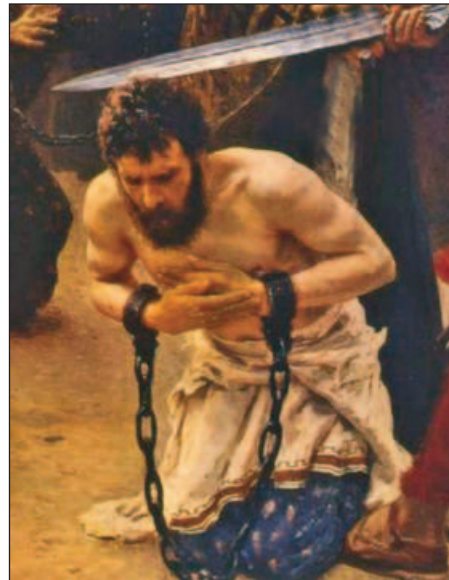
“Now be sure that nobody deceives YOU, you apostles in the First Century because many are going to be coming in My Name, saying that I am Christ and shall deceive many.” Now, we need to understand that.

After the Church had started, Christ had gone to heaven. One thing, where did the early Church get its teaching? Where did it get its doctrines, its beliefs and its practices, its customs? The early Church received all this from the apostles, and where did the apostles receive it? They received it primarily from Jesus, who had taught them for 3½ years. They also were familiar more or less, with the prophecies of the Old Testament because many of them had seen it or had had a copy. Usually a book like Isaiah would be just in a book all by itself. They didn’t have the whole Old Testament or they would have the five books of Moses all together, but usually and many times especially in the prophecies, it would just be one book of prophecy.

So He said, “Many shall come in my name, saying that I am Christ; and shall deceive many.” And then He went on talking to them, “And ye,” that is you apostles, you “shall hear of wars and rumors of wars.” Now He had told them there would be wars at the end time, and they knew that.

He said now you will hear of that, “see that you be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.”

In other words, He was telling them plainly the end was not coming in their time and, when they heard of wars, that wouldn’t mean the time of the end. “For,” He said, “nation shall rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes.”



Now He could have been referring to the end when that happened, but He said that the end wouldn’t come when they heard of wars and rumors of wars in their time. Now He said, “All these things are the beginning of sorrows.” He was undoubtedly referring there to the time that we’re in now, and “then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted.”

Now He was talking to them again, and talking of the trouble that did occur at the time of 69 and 70 A.D. when the Roman armies entered and destroyed the Temple at Jerusalem.

And it was a terrible time of trouble then, such as had never happened to any nation up till that time. They were even, for lack of food, killing their own children and eating them. It was a terrible time then, but it was local, and it was just in that one locale in and around Jerusalem.

“Then shall they deliver YOU up.” Now He was talking to His apostles, and many of them were martyred. In fact, some people think that all, except possibly John, of the apostles were martyred.

“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you; and you shall be hated of all nations,” or in all nations, “for My name’s sake. And then shall many be offended, and they shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many.”

Now, they did, He said, “Take heed that you be not deceived,” now at the very beginning, “For many will come

in My name, saying, that I am Christ,” and deceiving. Now here He says, and He’s speaking to them, “Many false prophets shall arise, and deceive many.” Well, they did, and they did come in Jesus’ name, saying that they were His ministers.

“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And **THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM,**” that’s **THE GOSPEL** He was preaching to them, **THE KINGDOM OF GOD,** “shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” The end of the world, and the Second Coming of Christ, that was the only sign He gave of His Second Coming.

You know, Jesus was asked by the Pharisees for a sign that He was the Messiah, and He said only one sign would be given, and that was the sign of the prophet Jonah, that as Jonah was three days and three nights in the great fish’s belly, so Jesus would be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth, or the tomb, which was hewn out of rock in the heart of the earth.



Now He continued, But **“I say unto you, when you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place,”** let him that readeth, **“let him understand.”**

And you find in Luke 21 and verse 20 that that refers to the same thing, and the abomination of desolation there spoken of was Jerusalem being surrounded by armies. Now that applied to 70 A.D. It is going to apply again because so many things happen in a dual manner, sort of a one-two punch, as I sometimes call it, and Jerusalem will again be surrounded by armies. In fact, it is to a great extent right now.

“Then let them which be in Judea,” of course, He was speaking locally there, **“flee to the mountains,”** and so on.

Then He comes down to that terrible time that happened in 70 A.D. as a TYPE of what is going to happen at the latter time, **THE GREAT TRIBULATION,** verse 21.

“For then shall be great tribulation,” such as was not from the beginning of the world to that same time, “no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved.” King James says “saved.” The Moffatt translation says, “saved alive,” and that’s what it means, **“but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.”**

So it shows for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened, and it doesn’t mean for the elect’s sake they’ll be shortened so that some can be converted, but it’s speaking about being saved alive.

Now it continues on. He talked about the **GREAT TRIBULATION,** how terrible it’ll be and now **“except those days be shortened,”** and now He’s definitely, that’s referring primarily, anti-typically, to this time yet coming just ahead of us now, that there would not one person be saved alive.

The number one problem before the world today is that of human survival or human extinction. It’s one or the

other. That’s a question that I’ll be going into on television tomorrow morning. Will humanity even survive a nuclear war? Will there be a day after? And in this program I will be referring to the movie that cre-



ated such a sensation just about three or four weeks ago, on “The Day After” about nuclear war. And primarily I’m going to be somewhat concerned with the conference or dialogue that happened between some of the most important people politically in the United States that followed the movie. Now, most people tuned out and didn’t even listen

Continued on Page 23

Personal from the Editor

By Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

'A Reverent Fear of God'

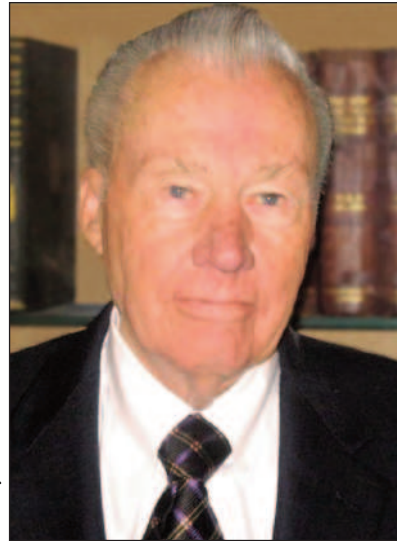
**'Fear Him who,
after He has killed ,
has power to cast
into hell; yes, I say
to you, fear Him!'**

Luke 12:4-5

Dear Brethren, As we draw very near to the fulfillment of the end-time prophecies of Jesus Christ, I have great concern for the thousands of members I have known over the 58 years that I have been blessed to be a member of God's true Church, and graced to be a minister for 53 years, knowing from Scripture many thousands will be *swallowed up* in the **Great Tribulation**, unless real changes are made – *and soon!*

Over seven years, and in each publication, I have written letters to the *Journal Church News* paper (Big Sandy, Texas), trying very hard to get members who read my writings to re-read the original unedited ***MYSTERY OF THE AGES***, the last book Mr. Armstrong wrote, in the last year of his life, to try and aid all – "... to **contend earnestly for the FAITH which was ONCE FOR ALL DELIVERED to the saints** (Jude 3-4, II Peter 2:1-3)."

In addition, I have written many articles over the years

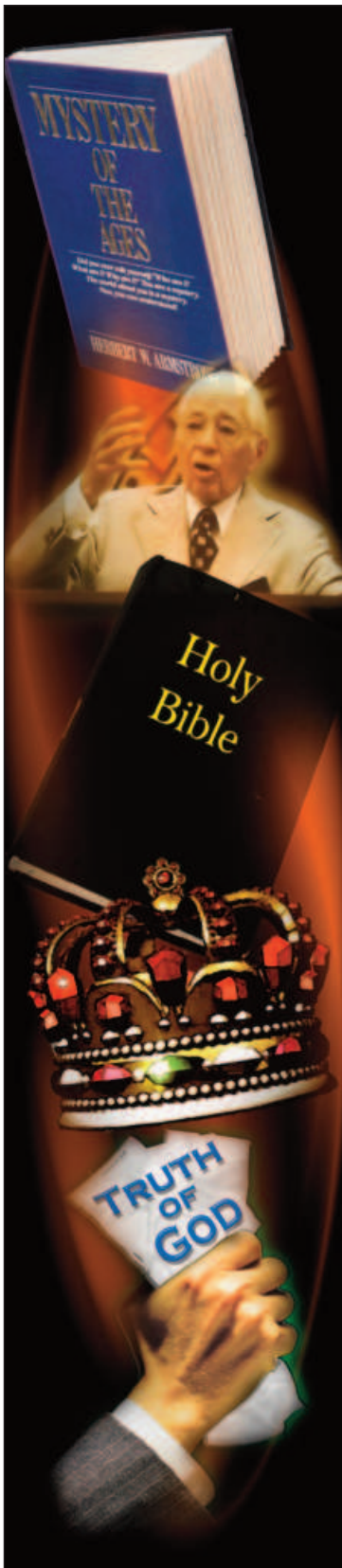


Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

and posted them on our web sites to reach out to a much larger number of members and ministers. There has been little response. It reminds me of what a man told Mr. Armstrong in the early years of his ministry that he would never go far for no one would to listen to the TRUTH.

Some years ago, 1995-1996, while in the midst of perhaps 20 ministers in the United Church of God, I made the statement before all of them that I intended to continue to believe and teach what God led Mr. Armstrong to teach us. All sat there with their heads down. Not one said, "I am with you." Complete silence.

It is realized few of these thousands of members ever bother to look at the





MYSTERY OF THE AGES, let alone completely re-read it, and then use it with their Bibles to evaluate where they are, and what they now believe.

Sadly, there is little to no regard to the plain writing of the REAL TRUTHS revealed in it any more than it was after 1986 when orders were given to the Transportation Department to load all those books up and take them to the dump.

This book presented a real danger to them at the time, and it continues to present a danger to the leaders of the corporate Churches of God now! It would shed the light of truth over the darkness of the accepted demonic pagan teachings they now believe and teach! Also, it might bring about the possible loss of membership and income.

The bottom line is – **there is NO real reverent fear of God and Jesus Christ!** Scripture reveals we are to tremble at the thought of violating or moving away from the Word of God (Philippians 2:12). To have this kind of **FEAR** requires a converted and faithful mind; one that has been given the Spirit of God!

Leaders Fear Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

They won't admit it, but the ministers are afraid of Mr. Armstrong for the same reason the Jews were afraid of Jesus Christ – *the truth that was taught!* They won't play his taped sermons in services nor speak of him in the offices that Jesus Christ gave him in a positive manner with

no negatives attached. To prove the point – *ask them why they won't?*

Simply stated, they are afraid of losing favor with the members just as King Saul was more fearful of his armies than he was fearful of God to not fully obey Him! This cost him his kingship (I Samuel 15:1-28). He was then replaced by a man after God's own heart, King David, who will continue to be the king over all Israel in the Millennium because of his continued faithfulness and loyalty to God (Ezekiel 37:15-28).

What about YOU? Will you lose your kingship for **rejecting** the TRUTH that Jesus Christ restored within His Church through Mr. Armstrong? (Hosea 4:6, Revelation 3:11)

The Government of God

The ministers have willed not to OBEY the government of God as restored within the Church of God by Mr. Armstrong! (Revelation 2:21) They are refusing to come under the authority of God, Jesus Christ, and under the authority of Their government that was restored within the true Church of God by Their late apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.



To come under that authority within the Church of God is to come under the authority of Jesus Christ, and failure to do so will lead to death.

“But bring here those enemies of Mine, who do NOT want Me to reign over them, and slay them before Me

(Luke 19:27).”



The Loss of Kingship

Unless there is repentance, and a change in heart and mind, *the*

loss of kingship is very possible. In addition, the possibility of not only being accounted worthy to escape the **Great Tribulation**, but also being cast into the **Lake of Fire** by the angels of God in the **Third Resurrection**. There is little time left to make the right and good changes.

“Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have that NO ONE may take your crown (Revelation 3:11).”

A World Spinning Out of Control

Can we NOT see the continued downward spiraling of this world that is out of control by human leadership? By watching world and national news, it is easy to see the end time is now very close!

Wherever one cares to look, it can easily be seen the **Collapse of Society** is increasingly imminent as can be witnessed by the news media who continue reporting on a daily basis its breakdown!

The Presidential Election and Economy

People in this country are presently focused on the 2012 presidential election, the economy and employment – major concerns affecting people’s lives – but failing to see the real problem is being caused by the fury of nature! (Ezekiel 7:6-7)

During the past few years, record-breaking floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes and drought have been witnessed and are accelerating each year! All of these are affecting adversely the food chain so much that food shortages will soon be experienced and will dwarf all other concerns.

The following article was of such little importance it was all the way back to page 11 in the newspaper. It should have been on the cover page!

Stockton Record, Nov. 2, 2011

WASHINGTON – For a world already weary of weather catastrophes, the latest warning from top climate scientists paints a dark picture. More floods, more heat waves, more droughts and greater costs to deal with them.

A draft summary of an international scientific report says extremes caused by climate change could eventually grow so severe that some locations become “increasingly marginal as places to live.”

World Population Grows Rapidly

It was recently reported the world population has now reached seven billion people. What about the food needed to supply the needs of all these many people?





Food Crisis for Dummies

By Eric deCarbonnel , Dec. 17, 2009

“Over the past two years, the world has faced a series of unprecedented financial crises.”

USDA motivated by fear of higher food prices

The USDA is terrorized by the implication of higher food prices for the U.S. economy, most likely because it knows the immediate consequence of sharply higher food will be the collapse of the U.S. Treasury market and the dollar, as desperate governments and central banks dump their foreign reserves to appreciate their currencies and lower the cost of food imports.

Fictitious USDA estimates should be seen as proof of the dire threat posed by higher food prices, as the USDA would have turned its production estimates into a grotesque **mockery of reality** if it didn't believe the alternative to be apocalyptic.

While the USDA may be the worst offender, the United States isn't the only government trying to downplay the food situation out of fear. As one Indian reporter writes, governments are lying about the looming food crisis.

“Some experts and governments, in full cognizance of the facts, want us not to create fear and paint a picture of parched crops and a looming food crisis. This, they say, would push up food prices unnaturally, lead to hoarding and ultimately result in a situation where many millions across the world would go hungry.”

We Have Had Our Last Chance

Shortly after the Japanese surrender aboard the battleship *Missouri*, General Douglas MacArthur, made the following historic broadcast to the American nation in which he said:

“We have had our last chance. If we will not devise some greater and equitable system, our Armageddon will be at the door. The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence (*renewal*), an improvement in human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, and literature, and all material and cultural developments of the past 2,000 years. It must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh.”

Sadly, as one writer stated, “Our last chance is now encapsulated within the past; this nation has progressed from bad to intensely filthy to demonically evil. The Lord has given us up to our own devices and our powers are woefully inadequate to solve the problems that confront us.”



This was well said – and little time left before God's wrath befalls the House of Joseph.

“Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Pound your fists and stamp your feet, and say: ‘Alas, for all the

evil abominations of the house of Israel! For they shall fall by the sword, famine, and by pestilence. He who is far off shall die by the pestilence, he who is near shall fall by the sword, and he who remains and is BE-SIEGED (embargoes) shall die by the famine. Thus will I spend My fury upon them (Ezekiel 6:11).”

The Great Tribulation

Soon, very soon, will be the famine and disease epidemics, then nuclear warfare to destroy the House of Israel. Afterwards, the survivors will either be brutally killed or enslaved by other nations – so says the Almighty God (Ezekiel 5:12-17).

Wayward, and off-track members, know this to some degree, but they have been deceived into believing they have nothing to fear for they are in the right place! And nothing could be farther from the truth as revealed by the Holy Scriptures!

The Lake of Fire

As bad as all this will be – *the Lake of Fire* will be far worse! All those who will be thrown into it will become ashes under the feet of the righteous – never to live again (Malachi 4:1, 3, Revelation 20:13-15).

The thought of this possible fate for you or me should surge enough **REAL REVERENT FEAR** in us to re-examine ourselves as to where we are, what we have come to believe, and then make the needed corrections and moves before it comes to be too late.

Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man

Think ahead to the reality of the Third Resurrection and the terrible fate that many will be facing before being thrown into the *Lake of Fire*!

Jesus Christ wanted us to realize the seriousness of this by illustrating a real life parable to serve as a warning to all of us:

The rich man having awakened from the sleep of death and finding himself in the **Third Resurrection**, and anticipating being thrown into the *Lake of Fire* by the angels of God, cried out in his torment to Abraham: **“I beg you therefore, father, that you would send (Lazarus) to my father’s house for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.”**

Abraham said to him, **“They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them ... if they do NOT hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead (Luke 16:19-31).”**

Some have expressed hope that Christ would resurrect Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and then use him to restore the membership of the Church of God together with the original doctrinal teachings that he was used to restore within His Church, but this is not God’s purpose.

Even if Christ were to resurrect him, only the Elect would return. All of the others, including the leadership, would remain where they are. They would not be persuaded any more than, as Abraham said to the rich man, **“... if they do NOT hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead (Luke 16:19-31).”**



Scattered Church Members Being Tested and Purified

Prophecy reveals that Jesus Christ intends His scattered Church to be tested and tried to the highest level of spiritual purification before His acceptance of them when He comes back to this earth:

“Many shall be PURIFIED, made WHITE, and REFINED, but the

wicked shall [continue] do wickedly; and NONE of the wicked shall UNDERSTAND [the purpose as to why?], BUT the WISE shall understand (Jeremiah 11:20, 17:10, 13; Daniel 12:10).”

Do **WE** have the wisdom and humility to understand and accept this with the reverent fear of God sufficiently to remain faithful to Him? If not, then we are not among the wise.

Jesus Christ follows through with the following grave warning of this coming time written by the Apostle Paul:

“For If we sin willfully (knowing better and doing it anyway, Revelation 2:21) AFTER we have received the knowledge of the TRUTH, there NO LONGER remains a sacrifice for sins, but a FEARFUL expectation of JUDGMENT, AND FIERY INDIGNATION which will

DEVOUR the adversaries. Anyone who has **REJECTED** Moses' law dies without mercy ... of how much worse punishment ... will he be thought worthy who has **TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT** (*trampling on God's laws, and His doctrinal teachings that Jesus Christ RESTORED within His Church by His late apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong* (Malachi 4:4-5; Matthew 17:10-11) ... it is a **FEARFUL** thing to fall into the hands of the **Living God** (Hebrews 10:26-31; 6:4-8)."

The very thought of experiencing this kind of fate should be so terrifying that we will do all that is required of us by Jesus Christ to escape it.

‘Watch and Pray Always’

In the closing part of His enumerated end-time prophecies, Jesus Christ cautioned each of His Elect,: "... **WATCH AND PRAY ALWAYS** ... (Luke 21:34-36)."

What good will this do ***IF*** we are among those in the Sardis or Laodicean Church Eras – so self-righteous that Christ will spew us out of His mouth into the **Great Tribulation** – and worse, conceivably, into the **Lake of Fire!** (Revelation 3:14-21, 20:14-15)

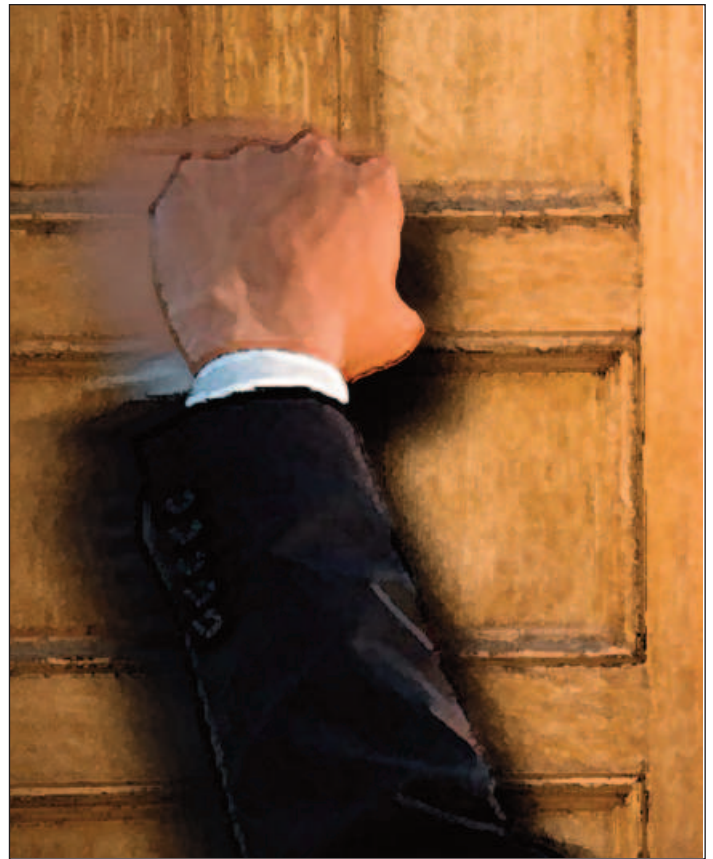
When viewing the state of the hundreds of corporate churches that have branched off from the Philadelphia Era of God's true Church, *the written warning* by God's late apostle needs to be brought to mind:

‘Some of You May Not Make It into God's Kingdom’

The GOOD NEWS of the Wonderful World Tomorrow, January 1981, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

If Mr. Armstrong were alive today, because of his love and caring concern for us, he would be yelling at the top of his voice to all those who would listen with the *warning* of what is just before us – the soon-coming terrible problems to befall the House of Joseph and other nations of Israel – while seeing members in grave danger of being ***entrapped*** by this world's evils and caught up in the plagues to befall them (Revelation 18:4).

A coming time so bad there has been no equal nor will there be afterwards (Matthew 24:21-22, Daniel 12:1).



It is sad to realize that virtually all members in all Churches of God are *unaware and indifferent* of how close this is to becoming reality!

Jesus Christ does, and is knocking on the door of all those He dearly loves with the desired hope they will answer and invite Him into their hearts and minds. This would make the real difference by leading to a close and abiding relationship with God and Jesus Christ (Revelation 3:11-21).

Sadly, the many thousands are disregarding the knock and warning by taking their salvation for granted; unless corrected, they will wake up too late (I Corinthians 10:14, II Corinthians 13:5).

A Closing Plea

Brethren, I am pouring my heart out to you – trying desperately hard to try and help you before it comes to be too late! I love and pray daily for God's mercy for all of you. *I implore you* – please read the original and unedited ***MYSTERY OF THE AGES*** – with your Bible, and take the appropriate action while there is yet time (Romans 13:11, John 9:4).

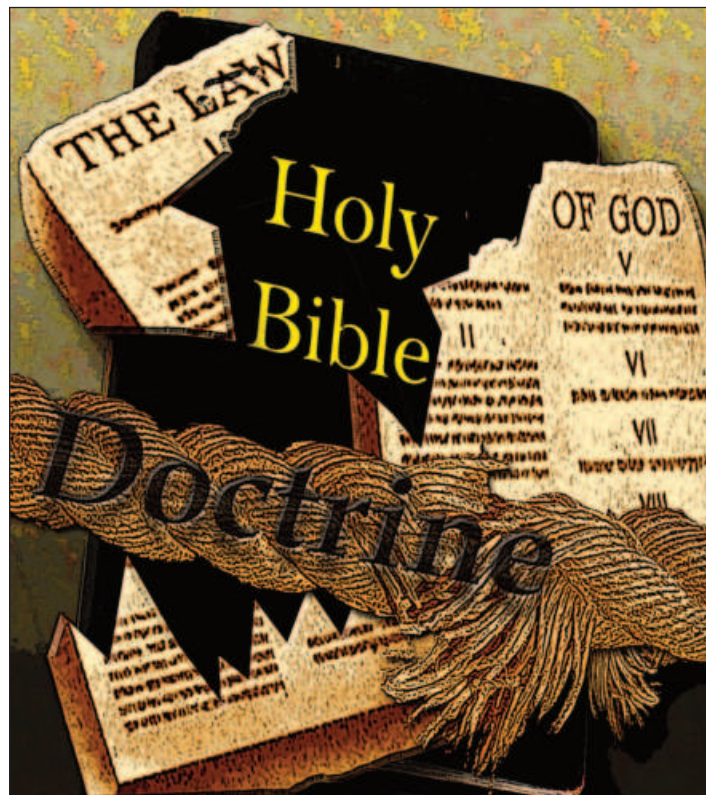
The True Church of God

Please know there is only the ONE true Church of God that Jesus Christ is now using to do His end-time Work. And this Church can be identified from all others by what Jesus Christ said about it in its ongoing history unto this present time:

“And to the angel of the Church in Philadelphia (brotherly love) write: ‘... I know your works, See, I have set before you AN OPEN DOOR, and no one can shut it; for you have A LITTLE STRENGTH, HAVE KEPT MY WORD AND HAVE NOT DENIED MY NAME. BECAUSE YOU HAVE KEPT MY COMMAND TO PERSEVERE, I also will KEEP YOU from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world ... (Revelation 3:7-13).”

And to be counted among those of the Philadelphia Church Era and fulfill what Jesus Christ says about it, will of necessity require strong will power with the willingness to stand alone, if necessary, regardless of the terrible times ahead.

Each of us MUST obey and follow Jesus Christ regardless of what other friends and relatives will or will not do (Luke 14:25-35, Revelation 14:4-5).



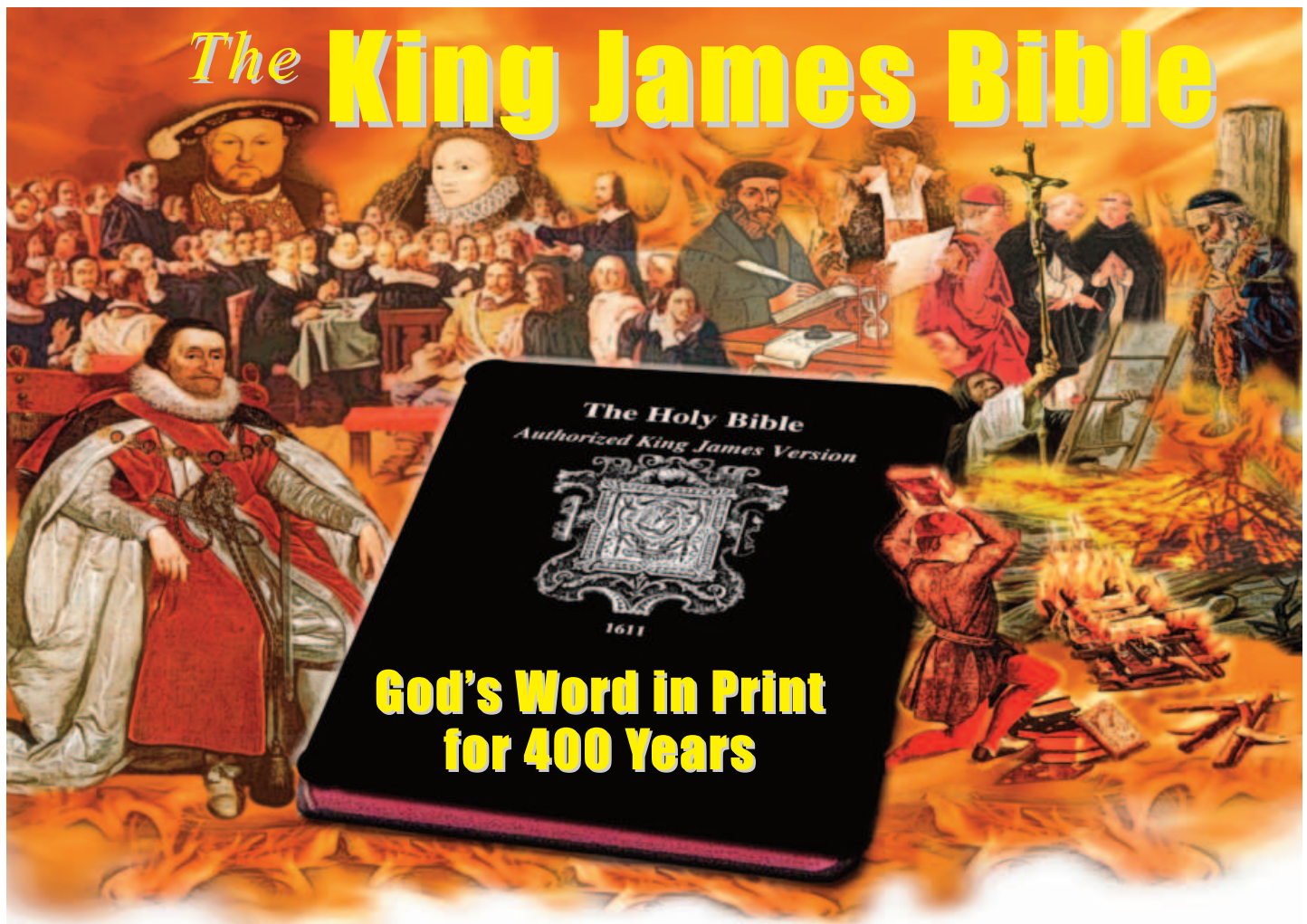
Having a close relationship with God and Jesus Christ will of itself bring about **A REAL REVERENT FEAR OF GOD** while knowing we are now being judged by Him (I Corinthians 13:5, I Peter 1:17).

Due to this closeness, with full obedience to Him, will fulfill the promise of *escape* from the coming horrors, followed by the awesome and wonderful blessing of being able to stand before the glorified Jesus Christ at His coming (Luke 21:36).

It is my fervent prayer this will come to pass with each of us! However, the choice is individually ours to make; no one else can do it for you or me (Romans 14:10).

I pray you will join me and all others by the locking of arms with one another while following our wonderful Savior Jesus Christ into immortality and eternal bliss. Nothing else really matters.





By Mark Mendiola

With 2011 winding to a close, Queen Elizabeth II visited London's Westminster Abbey on Nov. 16 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, arguably the most profoundly significant book ever published. She was accompanied by a British royal entourage that included her husband Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and son Charles, Prince of Wales, leading about 2,000 worshipers during a ceremony.

Westminster Abbey's Jerusalem Chamber was where the King James Bible underwent final revision after seven years of intensive scholarly research. Early editions of it were presented at November's prestigious event. More copies of the King James Bible have been distributed and sold than any other book in all the annals of history – more than a billion of them!

Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, praised the "extraordinary" and "abiding importance" of the Authorized Version. He said its 47 translators, who worked on

six committees in London, Oxford and Cambridge, conveyed the "almost unbearable weight of divine intelligence and love" when they translated the Old Testament from Hebrew and the New Testament from Greek.

Queen Victoria, Elizabeth's great-great grandmother, sat on the monarchy's throne at the height of the British Empire during most of the 19th Century. Referring to the King James Bible (first published in 1611), Victoria stated: "That book accounts for the supremacy of England."

During Victoria's reign, the British Empire encompassed nearly a quarter of the earth's land mass at 10 million square miles and was history's largest empire, influencing language, culture and governmental systems throughout the world. Its subjects totaled 400 million people! The King James Bible was widely circulated throughout "the empire on which the sun never sets" as traders, colonists, soldiers, sailors and missionaries fanned out across the globe.

William E. Gladstone, who served as British prime minister four times during Victoria's long reign, stated: "I have known 95 of the world's great men in my time, and of these



QUEEN VICTORIA GIVES KING JAMES BIBLE

87 were followers of the Bible. The Bible is stamped with a Specialty of Origin, and an immeasurable distance separates it from all competitors."

Sir Winston Churchill – Britain’s greatest prime minister, who led the embattled British through the agony of World War II – said of the King James Bible: “The scholars who produced this masterpiece are mostly unknown and unremembered. But they forged an enduring link, literary and religious, between the English-speaking people of the world.”

The King James Bible’s introduction four centuries ago followed the advent of the printing press, the Renaissance liberating Europe from the Dark Ages imposed by the Roman Catholic Church, the rapid spread of the Protestant Reformation, the Anglican Church’s split from the Vatican and the miraculous British defeat of the Spanish armada, which established the United Kingdom as a bastion of Protestantism and major counterbalance to the so-called Holy Roman Empire on the continent.

The Book of Books

An article in the December 2011 edition of *National Geographic* notes that more copies of the King James Bible have been published than any other book in English. It has been translated into countless languages.



GUTENBERG BIBLE

“Bible societies in Britain and America distributed King James Bibles across the world, the London-based British and Foreign Bible Society alone shipping more than a hundred million copies in the 80 years after it was founded in 1804.”

The King James Bible has never gone out of print since its inception in 1611. It has contributed 257 idioms to English, more than any other single source, including Shakespeare, according to Wikipedia. Numerous novels use KJV phrases in their titles. It was quoted in outer space by Apollo 8 astronauts who read from Genesis 1 in December 1968 and accompanied them on their mission to the moon.

National Geographic states:

“You don’t have to be a Christian to hear the power of those words – simple in vocabulary, cosmic in scale, stately in their rhythms, deeply emotional in their impact. Most of us might think we have forgotten its words, but the King James Bible has sewn itself into the fabric of the language.” It also has been called “a monument to English prose.”



Wikipedia states: “The Authorized Version has been called ‘the most influential version of the most influential book in the world, in what is now its most influential language,’ ‘the most important book in English religion and culture,’ and ‘the most celebrated book in the English-speaking world.’” Compton’s Encyclopedia states: “One of the supreme achievements of the English Renaissance came at



GUTENBERG WITH PRINTING PRESS

its close, in the King James Bible ... *It is rightly regarded as the most influential book in the history of English civilization.*"

Thomas Carlyle, a Scottish essayist and historian during the Victorian Era, said: *"The Bible is the truest utterance that ever came by alphabetic letters."* Alfred, Lord Tennyson, poet laureate of the United Kingdom during much of Queen Victoria's reign, stated: *"Bible reading is an education in itself."* Sir Isaac Newton, an English physicist, said: *"There are more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history."* Sir William Herschel, a British astronomer, declared: *"All human discoveries seem to be made only for the purpose of confirming more and more strongly the truths contained in the Sacred Scriptures."*

A Miraculous Publication

How the King James Bible came into existence itself can be described as nothing less than miraculous! It helped cement England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales into the United Kingdom – and helped launch the British Empire. King James I, a Scot, ascended to the British throne following the death and remarkable reign of Queen Elizabeth I in 1603, uniting the English and Scottish crowns.

Only a year following his coronation, James summoned a conference at Hampton Court Palace near London to reconcile the Church of England's bishops and the Puritans whose religious strife was dividing the kingdom.

He almost immediately seized on a suggestion by John Reynolds, head of the Puritans in England, that a new translation of the Bible be initiated, recognizing it would unite the kingdom, *whose most brilliant scholars and linguists tackled the daunting challenge.*



KING JAMES I

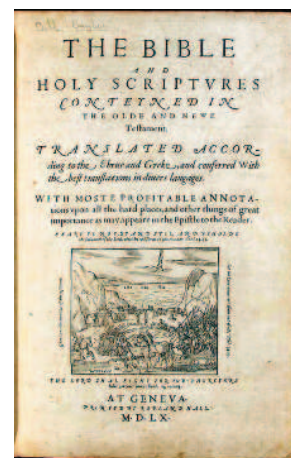
King James Bible: *"The translation was extraordinarily well done* because to the translators what they were translating was not merely a curious collection of ancient books written by different authors in different stages of culture, but *the word of God divinely revealed through His chosen and expressly inspired scribes.* In this conviction, they carried out their work with boundless reverence and care and achieved a beautifully artistic result ... They made *a translation so magnificent* that to this day the common human Britisher or citizen of the United States of North America *accepts and worships it as a single book by a single author, the book being the Book of Books and the author being God."*

Ink and Blood

The Bible was preserved during the blackest depths of the Dark Ages by *courageous men and women willing to be martyred* so the light of its Scriptures could illuminate the world. Against seemingly overwhelming odds, they valiantly defied the oppressive Roman Catholic Church, which was officially determined to destroy copies of the Bible and prevent common people from reading its inspired writings. Popes, cardinals and priests considered these individuals "heretics" worthy to be tortured by the most unthinkably cruel punishments during the infamous Inquisition.

At that time, the Anglicans were using the Bishops' Bible, carelessly translated by a dozen or so bishops in 1568, and the Puritans were using the 1560-published Geneva Bible, accurately based on William Tyndale's translation and original texts, but whose marginal notes were filled with anti-hierarchical editorial comments aimed at the Roman Catholic Church, which James construed could be used against the monarchy.

Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw praised the





WILLIAM TYNDALE STRANGLED, BURNED AT STAKE

History indicates many of those martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the Dark Ages to preserve God's Word were members of the true Church of God, which was driven underground by intense religious persecution. One prominent individual at this time was Walter Lollard, an eloquent, wealthy Dutchman who spent part of his fortune to buy a copy of the Bible and take his message to England about 1315, during the reign of King Edward III, "from among the Waldenses." One historian also reported: "More than one-half of the people of England in a few years became Lollards."

While historical records are scarce, members of the true Church of God who tried to closely adhere to Bible scriptures as best they understood, keeping God's command-



TRIAL OF JOHN WYCLIFFE

ments regardless of the consequences, can be found throughout Europe identified among the Lollards, Waldensians, Anabaptists, Paulicians, Albigensians, Bogomils and other obscure groups during the Dark Ages. While not all of those affiliated with these various groups were Church of God members, many of them were.

John Wycliffe, the first to translate the Bible into English from Latin, was born 1328, only a few years after Lollard was burned alive as a heretic. Wycliffe obviously was influenced by the teachings of the Lollards, which spread quickly throughout the British Isles. The true Church of God's influence on the beliefs of Wycliffe is obvious.

Wikipedia states: "The followers of John Wycliffe undertook the first complete English translations of the Christian scriptures in the 15th century. These translations were banned in 1409 due to their association with the Lollards."

According to the Anabaptist Network, "The Lollard movement emerged in late medieval England from the popularizing of the ideas of Oxford scholar, John Wyclif. Between the late fourteenth and early sixteenth century, the Lollards flourished, suffered persecution ... were suppressed and yet survived as a pre-Reformation movement of dissent."



JOHN WYCLIFFE

Jesus Christ said the gates of hell ("hades," Greek, "the grave") would not prevail against His Church, which would be built on Himself, "Petra," a large rock foundation (Matthew 16:18, I Corinthians 3:11, 10:4; Ephesians 2:19-20). Successive eras of His Church span from her inception in 31 A.D. across the centuries to our time today. They are described prophetically in the second and third chapters of Revelation.

God's Church is compared to a chaste virgin who has not defiled herself with false doctrine (I Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:23-24, Revelation 14:4), following the Lamb wherever He



JOHN WYCLIFFE'S BONES DUG UP, BURNED

goes, redeemed from among men, the firstfruits of God.

During the Dark Ages, she survived in remote areas for more than 1,000 years. Based on Bible prophecy's day-for-a-year principle (Ezekiel 4:6, Numbers 14:34), this is described symbolically in Revelation 12:6 – "Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days."

John Wycliffe – one of the earliest opponents of papal authority – produced the first hand-written English language Bible in the 1380s. Although it pre-dated the printing press, dozens of its manuscripts were widely circulated. About 250 manuscript copies of the entire Wycliffe Bible remain in existence.

"Wycliffe ... was well-known throughout Europe for his opposition to the teaching of the organized Church, which he believed to be contrary to the Bible. With the help of his followers, called the Lollards ... and many other faithful scribes, Wycliffe produced dozens of English language manuscript copies of the Scriptures. They were translated out of the Latin Vulgate,

TYNDALE TRANSLATES BIBLE



MASSACRE OF PAULICIANS IN 843-844 A.D.

which was the only source text available to Wycliffe," www.greatsite.com states. "The Pope was so infuriated by his teachings and his translation of the Bible into English that 44 years after Wycliffe had died, he ordered (his) bones to be dug up, crushed, (burned) and scattered in the river!"

Wycliffe's baton was passed to William Tyndale, whose translation of the Bible became the first printed in English. "... the merits of Tyndale's work and prose style made his translation the ultimate basis for all subsequent renditions into Early Modern English," Wikipedia states.

William Tyndale – 'God's Outlaw'

Born about 1494, William Tyndale "was a remarkable linguist fluent in French, Greek, Hebrew, German, Italian, Latin, Spanish and his native English. Like Wycliffe before him, Tyndale hated the church's ban on the English Bible. He felt it created an unnecessary barrier between believers and the Word of God. Though there is no proof, it's likely Tyndale grew up in Lollardism and was familiar with their English Bible," the video documentary, "William Tyndale: Martyr for the Bible," states.



WILLIAM TYNDALE

Tyndale boldly told one official who opposed his efforts to translate the Bible into common English: "If God spare my life, I will see to it that the boy who drives the plowshare



SMUGGLING TYNDALE BIBLES

was finally published in 1526. “Within weeks of its printing, the first copies of Tyndale’s New Testament began making their way into England, where they were sold on the black market. The illegal book was a hit. The Catholic government’s reaction was swift and fierce. Tyndale’s New Testament was publicly burned,” the documentary states.

When caught, Tyndale’s followers, who circulated his Bible translations, were tortured and burned at the stake. Meanwhile, he remained hidden in exile as a fugitive in Belgium, but continued his translating and publishing operation despite inquisitors and bounty hunters constantly on his trail to arrest him.

“Today, there are only two known copies left of Tyndale’s 1525-26 first edition. Any copies printed prior to 1570 are extremely valuable. Tyndale’s flight was an inspiration to freedom-loving Englishmen who drew courage from the 11 years that he was hunted. Books and Bibles flowed into

knows more of the Scripture than you, sir!” Because of harsh resistance to his controversial beliefs, Tyndale fled in 1524 from England to continental Europe, where he finished his English translation of the New Testament, working from the original Greek. It

England in bales of cotton and sacks of flour. Ironically, Tyndale’s biggest customer was the king’s men, who would buy up every copy available to burn them ... and Tyndale used their money to print even more!”

Greatsite.com continues: “In the end, Tyndale was caught: Betrayed by an Englishman that he had



QUEEN ELIZABETH I

befriended. Tyndale was incarcerated for 500 days before he was strangled, impaled on a stake and burned in 1536. Tyndale’s last words were, *‘Oh, Lord, open the King of England’s eyes.’*”

This prayer would be answered almost immediately. While Tyndale was imprisoned, Myles Coverdale printed the Coverdale Bible, based in good part on Tyndale’s work. A year after Tyndale’s death, John Rogers published the Matthew Bible, based on Tyndale’s translation. King Henry VIII allowed the licensing for those two Bibles, but in 1539 he even funded the printing of the English Bible known as the Great Bible. Coverdale was put in charge of that project, mostly basing it on Tyndale’s translation.

Henry ordered every church in England to display and chain the Bible in place. So, within three years of Tyndale’s death, three English translations were legally circulating in England. As one observer put it, “It remains as a memorial to William Tyndale and an answer to his dying prayer.”

In fact, much of the subsequent King James Bible is based primarily on Tyndale’s meticulous translations of the Old



KING HENRY VIII



MYLES COVERDALE



BURNING BIBLES



AT LEFT, BLOODY MARY, JOHN FOXE. ABOVE, JOHN ROGERS BURNED ALIVE.

allusions to the KJV's unique, exquisite phraseology. "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book," Lincoln said.

Theodore Roosevelt, one of the nation's greatest presidents, said: "A thorough understanding of the Bible is better than a college education. ... It is necessary for the welfare of the nation that men's lives be based on the principles of the Bible. No man, educated or uneducated, can afford to be ignorant of the Bible."

Daniel Webster, a U.S. secretary of state under three presidents, prophetically warned: "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."

and New Testaments. About 83 percent of the KJV of the New Testament and 76 percent of the first five books of the Old Testament have been attributed to Tyndale.

America's Bible of Choice

Translators of the 1611 King James Bible were influenced mostly by the Geneva Bible – which retains more than 90 percent of Tyndale's original English translation – than by any other source. Translated and published in Switzerland during Catholic Queen Mary I's reign of terror in England when Protestants were slaughtered by "Bloody Mary," the Geneva Bible was the first Bible taken to America by the Puritans and pilgrims. (*Among Mary's victims burned at the stake was John Rogers, who was authorized by her father, Henry VIII, to publish an English Bible*).

However, the first English Bible printed in America was a King James Version published in 1782 by Robert Aitken, which was the only Bible ever authorized by the U.S. Congress. George Washington, the first U.S. president, commended Aitken for providing Americans with Bibles during a War of Independence embargo of imported English merchandise. The first Family Bible and first Illustrated Bible were printed 1791 in the United States. Both of them were King James Versions.

Washington said: "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." Patrick Henry, another U.S. founding father, stated: "The Bible is worth all other books which have ever been printed." The speeches and writings of Abraham Lincoln, America's most eloquent president, are filled with

Bible Illiterates

Most Americans, Canadians, English, Scots, Irish, Welsh, Australians and New Zealanders remain woefully ignorant of even the most fundamental aspects of the Bible because they don't bother to open its pages. They consider it an antiquated collection of irrelevant writings and ignore its instructions, inspiration, correction and warnings. Sadly, their clergy are among the most illiterate when it comes to the Bible! Most people in the western world do not value the supreme sacrifices made by martyrs to preserve its profound content.

The Apostle Paul told Timothy: "Be diligent (or study, KJV) to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth ... All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (II Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17)."

Praying to God the Father before His crucifixion, Jesus Christ Himself said: "Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth (John 17:17)." He previously stated: "And the Scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35)." He told His disciples, "You search the Scriptures,



BIBLE READERS/LEADERS

for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me (John 5:39).” The Bereans were commended because “they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so (Acts 17:11).”

Meanwhile, researchers George Gallup and Jim Castelli have stated: “Americans revere the Bible – but, by and large, they don’t read it. And because they don’t read it, they have become a nation of Biblical illiterates.”

In October 2005, Dr. R. Albert Mohler Jr. wrote: “Fewer than half of all adults can name the four gospels. Many Christians cannot identify more than two or three of the disciples. According to data from the Barna Research Group, 60 percent of Americans can’t name even five of the Ten Commandments. ... A Barna poll indicated that at least 12 percent of adults believe that Joan of Arc was Noah’s wife. Another survey of graduating high school seniors revealed that over 50 percent thought that Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife. A considerable number of respondents to one poll indicated that the Sermon on the Mount was preached by Billy Graham. We are in big trouble.”

No Knowledge of God

Meanwhile, an aggressive movement is under way to purge any references to God, Jesus Christ and the nation’s Judeo-Christian heritage completely from society and forbid public prayers – under the guise of separating church from state. Secular humanists, socialists, atheists and other left-wing groups are striving to remove “one nation under God” from the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance, “In God We Trust” from the nation’s currency and displays of the Ten Commandments from all public places.



Notice the consequences of losing the knowledge of God, His law and His Word as so many nations of the western world have done either deliberately or through neglect.

“Hear the word of the LORD, You children of Israel, for the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land. By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed after bloodshed. Therefore the land will mourn; and everyone who dwells there will waste away ... My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have re-

jected knowledge, I also will reject you ... Because you have forgotten the law of your God. I also will forget your children. The more they increased, the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame (Hosea 4:1-3, 6-7).”

The Holy Bible, God’s Word, essentially is Jesus Christ the Word in print. Just as publication of the King James Bible helped dispel the smothering darkness of the Dark Ages, Jesus Christ came into the world as a brilliant Light. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ... That was the true Light which gives light to every man who comes into the world (John 1:1. 4-5, 9).”

Martyrs Avenged

In addition to establishing the KINGDOM OF GOD at His Second Coming, Christ will return to avenge the blood of martyrs who have died down through the centuries for His name’s sake as well as those who will lose their lives in another looming major martyrdom of saints as darkness once again envelopes the earth before the dawn of Christ’s Millennial reign.

“When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed (Revelation 6:9-11).”

One important commission of God’s Church during the Dark Ages was to preserve God’s Word despite aggressive, relentless attempts to snuff it out. It was not until her Philadelphian era that TRUE APOSTOLIC CHRISTIANITY was restored by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, who was ordained an apostle and fulfilled Christ’s prophecy of an Elijah who would restore all things (Matthew 17:10-13).

His ministry of proclaiming the Good News or GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD coincided with the “time of the end,” when the Book of Daniel would be unsealed and opened for the wise to understand (Daniel 12:4, 9-10). Mr. Armstrong urged his listeners to blow the dust off their Bibles and prove what he preached from its pages. The Church of God – Faithful Flock echoes that very same challenge!



'Noah, Daniel and Job ... would deliver only themselves by their righteousness.'

Ezekiel 14:14

The Importance of Righteousness

By Tom Cooper

Why is righteousness, or being righteous, referred to so often throughout the Scriptures? What does righteousness have to do with conversion? To those God calls saints, Christ stated they alone among all the people of the earth would receive a comforter – the Holy Spirit.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you

all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you (John 14:26)."

Where does righteous conduct fit in? In addition, Romans 3:10 says, **"As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one.'"** And there is Ezekiel 14:13-21, which indicates that unless a person is as righteous as Noah, Job and Daniel, they would not be delivered from the tribulation yet to come – a conundrum, a Catch 22, a contradiction?

Reviewing what God has to say about righteousness, or being righteous, reveals a fascinating connection to our spiritual lives. In fact, it gives us a very sharp edge in overcoming Satan when we understand how God's plain statements mold our reactions to events in our lives. Thus, a proper understanding of righteous conduct and practicing it reveals how a true Christian can be imbued by the power of God's Holy Spirit in his or her life, and how it relates to those "not called" yet.

So first, righteousness lacks sin. This is indicated by Christ's statements found in Matthew 9:9-13, Mark 2:17

and here in Luke 5:32: **“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”** So a person making a “righteous” decision or acting in a righteous manner does not sin at that time. Not perfect, none of us are, but doing the right thing while not doing anything of which to repent.

So, your actions reflect your attitude of trying to be or being righteous, or not. And that has huge ramifications to your spiritual health, and being shielded from Satan by God's Holy Spirit. So let's look at the blessings!

The Blessings of Righteousness

Prayer life – I Peter 3:12: **“For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers.”** This builds on the last part of Proverbs 15:29: **“... He hears the prayer of the righteous.”** Also, James 5:16: **“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”** This includes those not converted yet as revealed in the story of the centurion in Acts 10, especially verse 35.

Trouble, Hunger, Death – Proverbs 10:2-3: **“But righteousness delivers from death. The LORD will not allow the righteous soul to famish.”** Proverbs 11:8: **“The righteous is delivered from trouble.”** Remember what Mr.

Herbert W. Armstrong taught concerning paying God His tithe. Once he began tithing, his family never lacked food again!

Other blessings – Proverbs 14:32, 34: **“...the righteous has a refuge in his death ... Righteousness exalts a nation.”** Proverbs 13:21: **“But to the righteous, good shall be repaid.”** Proverbs 10:24: **“And the desire of the righteous will be granted.”**

Many years ago due to unexpected overtime pay, I was able to buy a number of large toys for my young children. A first! My son, the eldest and about 6, came and asked what he may have done to make this possible. Amused, I asked why he wanted to know. His answer: “So I can do it again.”

We, too, each want blessings and wish to know how to achieve them. In our case, **righteousness or righteous conduct provides things that only our Heavenly Father can provide.** His ears are open to our cry (Psalm 34:15).

He will bless us with physical, emotional and spiritual health, and deliverance from hunger, death and unforeseen trouble. Ultimately, there will be a refuge for us. So there is specific action we each take that determines the smooth-

ness of our path. Consider your own path and choices you have made over the years and the results.

The Link to Faith

Our attitude toward God's Word, whether we believe what He says, has to do with righteousness. Genesis 15:6 says: **“And he (Abram) believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”** Abraham's righteousness entailed obedience to God, His commandments and laws (Genesis 26:5, James 2:21-23). In fact, notice the Bible's definition of righteousness: **“For all your commandments are righteousness (Psalm 119:172).”** There is **“a righteous requirement of the law (Romans 8:4).”**

Deuteronomy 24:12,13 reveals **a righteous**, godly attitude toward the poor. Showing compassion also is necessary. To act upon God's instruction is showing a belief that God exists and that you will obey. Thus God counts it as righteousness. This in time builds our faith.

In your own life as you see God's instruction and obey, you learn the result leads to blessings. In turn, you trust God and His judgments. This begins with hearing God's word: **“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17).”**



LOT FLEES SODOM

We have the account of Lot who understood and believed the angels were sent by God to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. The Apostle Peter spoke of Lot as being righteous and oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (II Peter 2:7-8). Thus, he was spared as Scripture states **a righteous person** will be (Proverbs 10:2, 11:8).

What about Ancient, Modern Physical Israel?

John the Baptist, *coming in the power of Elijah*, was sent “to make ready a people prepared for the Lord (Luke 1:17).” Luke 3:8-14 describes John requiring fruits of repentance and explains the actions individuals should take in their respective lives. Summarizing John's admonishment to all: **Be righteous** in dealing with your fellow man.

What he preached is the fruit of real repentance. Does this “prepare” them for the arrival of the Messiah? Yes! This is physical righteousness (*with fruits*) and a starting point for being prepared. That was what ancient Israel was called to do as an example to all nations, and great national blessings followed when they obeyed.

What about modern Israel? In our time, Mr. Armstrong – *the one coming in the power of Elijah* – preached about the way of “give versus get” to all nations. The give way of life is **righteousness**, and a starting point (*an attitude*) for being ready for Christ's return.

Cause and Effect of Actions

When looking at nations, individuals or ourselves, we can see the cause and effect of actions. Japan as a nation has maintained two righteous principles as part of their culture: Honor to parents (the Fifth Commandment), which has resulted in the highest average lifespan among nations, which mirrors the promise God decrees (Deuteronomy 5:16).

The Japanese also honor those older than themselves (Leviticus 19:32). Our language defines how we speak to someone senior to ourselves! Their society is extremely stable. Japanese criminals are rare. Righteous actions have a positive effect.



HONORING ELDERLY

Proverbs 29:2 states: “... **But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.**” Proverbs 28:2 adds: “**Because of the transgressions of a land, many are its princes ...**”

These two centuries-old principles closely fit modern nations descended from the patriarch Israel, thus pointing out how far from God they have drifted. God's word and wisdom have proved accurate since it was written down. Yet the rebellious continue to avoid learning from our Great Creator by studying **His Word!**

So, the curses on modern Israelite nations now are blatantly apparent. People are groaning. There are “many princes”!

Also as you look for cause and effect, notice the evil of the more than 50 million abortions since the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* U.S. Supreme Court decision. There also are an estimated 12 million illegal aliens in the U.S. But the spiritually blind refuse to see.

In his time, Abram was told by God, “**But in the fourth generation they (his descendants) shall return here (the Promised Land), for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete** (Genesis 15:16).”

So we see just as Sodom, Gomorrah and the rest of the cities of the plains were destroyed, so other nations, like the

Amorites, have been destroyed because their **lack of righteousness** condemned them.

Many centuries later in the Americas, the Spanish destroyed two well-established societies with vast domains: The Incas and Aztecs. Each sacrificed humans to their gods. And “modern Christianity” adds an insult to God by speaking of that “Old Testament God” who had Israel exterminate so many thousands as they cleared the Promised Land – of evil!



HUMAN SACRIFICE

None of Christianity wants to acknowledge John 1:1-14 that clearly shows that Christ was the God of the “Old Testament.” Putting together other statements Christ made, such as “**But the rest of dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished** (Revelation 20:5),” proves all those who are dead will live again.

First, those called and chosen (saints) will be resurrected to spirit life (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). In the second resurrection, the rest of the dead will be raised back to human life.

A close study of righteousness reveals a cause and effect that unveils God's true plan for mankind. **The TRUE GOSPEL** (*Good News*) **OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD** speaks of the return of God's government during the Millennium with the chosen resurrected saints ruling with Christ.

This will be followed by a resurrection in which all of mankind will be given life again (Ezekiel 37:1-14). This will be life without Satan when God's government will be composed of resurrected saints helping our human family achieve its destiny to become sons of God (Revelation 20:1-3).

The study of righteousness proves there is a cause and effect tied to our actions, and the actions of nations. No politician, nor clergy, nor spin master can change that fact. It is written in God's Word. **However, any one, individual or nation, who desires can reap the benefits of righteous conduct.** God's Word reveals how! That is the path to preparing for Christ's return!

Remember, as Jesus Christ admonished: “**Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness,** and all these things shall be added to you (Matthew 6:33).”



Philadelphia Era

Continued from Page 4

to that and that was the most important part of the whole thing to my mind.

Now in verse 29, *“Immediately after the tribulation of those days,”* just to give you the dating of it and the time it’s referring to, *“Immediately after the tribulation of THOSE DAYS shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall SEE the Son of Man,”* *Christ, “coming in the clouds of heaven with POWER and great glory.”* *Coming as the King of kings and the Lord of lords, to rule all nations.* So definitely that is talking about the time just ahead of us now.

Now He said the mission of this Church then, that *this GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM shall be proclaimed in all the world for a witness unto all nations,* and *THEN* shall the end, the end of this world, come and the Second Coming of Christ to introduce the World Tomorrow, another world altogether.

Now I want you to contrast verses four and five where He said: *Let “no man deceive you ... many will come in My name, saying that I am Christ.”* Immediately after the Church started there was great opposition, and the first opposition for the first several years, first few years at least, was Jewish opposition, an opposition of denying that Jesus was the Christ. *Now most of the preaching of the 12 apostles at first was proving that Jesus was the Christ.*

That is the reason that Jesus chose 12 in number. It’s the same reason that they have 12 on a jury today to decide a case because 12 is supposed to, a unanimous decision by 12 is supposed to be accurate and convincing and the 12 disciples had all been with Jesus for 3½ years while He was here on the earth as just an ordinary human being, and then they had been 40 days with Him after His resurrection to PROVE that He had been dead, that He had resurrected, that He WAS the Christ because the resurrection is the proof.

Now a little later, that had become established, of course, the Church at first was Jewish, and many of the Jews would not accept that Jesus was the Christ. Those who did came in and that started the Church. *The Church at the beginning was entirely Jewish, of those who HAD accepted the truth that Jesus was the promised Messiah.* Many expected Him to come as He will the second time with great power and authority to rule all nations. He didn’t come that way the first time. He came to qualify for the office, but not to set up the nation or the kingdom. *HE CAME TO PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM. HE CAME TO ANNOUNCE THE KINGDOM,* that it would come, but He didn’t come to initiate the Kingdom at that time.



After a short time, you notice even the apostle Paul went to the Jews first, and a certain number accepted the truth and then the Jews began to universally just turn away. They WOULD NOT accept that Jesus was the Christ, and then Paul says, *“Lo, I turn to the Gentiles.”*

And then he began going to Gentiles, and the gospel then was primarily sent to Gentiles after a certain number of years. Now when it went to the Gentiles, there was no question about who the Christ was. They accepted Jesus as the Christ, but the Gentiles didn’t like to accept the law of God as a way of life, and then many Jews who had accepted Christ still wanted to inject the Law of Moses.

Next Friday night I want to speak on this very thing and the difference between the Law of Moses and the Law of God, two separate laws altogether. One is physical, has to do with physical labor. The other is spiritual, has to do with the relationship, our first relationship to God and secondly

human relationships with other humans, and it's entirely misunderstood in all the churches that call themselves Christian today. That is still the GREATEST difficulty in Christianity today, and it became that.

So they were against the law of God, and many Jews were wanting to bring in circumcision and the law of Moses, which was a law of rituals, of physical duties to do morning, noon and night, various eating and drinking and things of that sort, just physical labor. It had nothing to do with human relationships or man's relationship to God. Now about that time, and it was prior still to 70 A.D., the time that Paul turned to the Gentiles, and they began preaching about the law. The Jews who had accepted Christ and come into the Church did that, and, of course, Paul and the apostles had to refute that.

But, from that time, there was a great controversy on what the TRUE GOSPEL should be, and we find evidence now in history, and the history is almost missing on this point. There was a great lapse of history for a hundred years from around, oh, from 30 or 50 A.D. up to 150 A.D., practically no history of what was going on in the early Church that had just come up, of Christianity.

This much we do know, that at the beginning of that time there was a GREAT controversy in which was a life and death matter to many, and there were many martyred as to whether the gospel should be a gospel about Christ because, you see, the early apostles had to prove that Jesus was the Messiah, that Jesus was the Christ, and many thought that was the whole gospel! And the controversy came up was the gospel about Christ, just proving that Jesus is the Christ, or is the gospel "THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST," which means the gospel Christ preached?

Now Jesus came as a Messenger bearing a message, and THE MESSAGE HE BROUGHT WAS THE KINGDOM OF GOD. That was the gospel! You read in Mark 1, "The beginning of," verse 1, "**The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ.**"

It speaks about John the Baptist coming, preparing the way before His First Coming, and then it speaks of Jesus' baptism and His, just one verse of His temptation before Satan the devil, and His qualification to rule in the Kingdom of God. And then after that, we find that Jesus came into Galilee preaching the Gospel, but what Gospel? The GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD! That is the FAMILY of God as a governing Family GOVERNING THE ENTIRE WORLD. A world government by the Family of God, into which those of the true Church may be born.

So we have quite a contrast there, at that time.

Now in Galatians 1, verses 6 and 7, you read where the apostle Paul, and this was about 53 A.D., only about 22 years after the Church started. Paul found that already they were turning to another gospel. They were beginning to turn to a gospel ABOUT

Christ instead of the Gospel OF Christ, but at that time many of the Jews, they accepted that Jesus was the Christ, but they were coming in now saying you must be circumcised and keep the Law. Some people are terribly mixed up on that point, yet it should be very clear.

II Corinthians 11 you find that Paul mentioned how there would be false prophets coming in the name of Jesus, saying that Jesus was the Christ, but they would be preaching another Jesus, and that is precisely what they did!

They preached a Jesus who was a smart aleck young man, who knew more than His Father and did away with His Father's law and commandments. They preached a Jesus that



THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

nailed the Law to the cross. They preached a Jesus that was in opposition to God the Father.

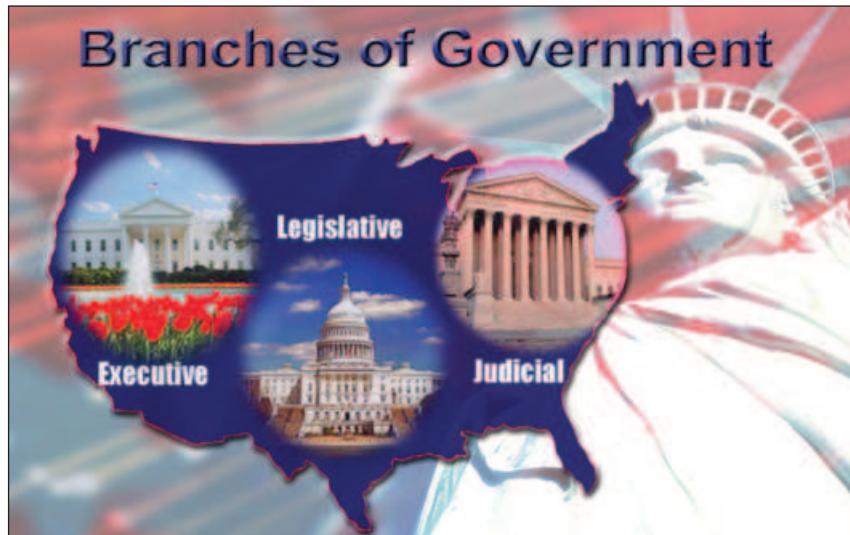
And that is what has come on down through Protestantism, and you will notice that today the Protestant churches and the Catholic Church talk about Jesus, although the Catholic Church probably talks more about Mary, than they do about Jesus even, but they talk about CHRIST, about Jesus, BUT THEY LEAVE GOD THE FATHER OUT OF IT! THEY WON'T HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH GOD THE FATHER. They talk about CHRIST, but they want to do away with the LAW.

Now let me make this straight. The Law came from God the Father. You know, it's a great deal like the government of the United States. The Congress is the law-making body. The president is the executive of the administration to administer the government, and then we have the Supreme Court to do the judging. Now, spir-

itually in the government of God, God the Father is the Congress or the Parliament. He is the Lawgiver.

He makes the Law, and when you break the Law, you have put yourself clear outside of God the Father. It is God the Father you need to be reconciled to, not Christ. You accept Christ not because that saves you. The receiving of Christ does not save you, and yet they say that you're already born again if you say "I receive Christ," and the churches are saying that thing all over, and they are in gross ERROR.

And it is simply, as it says in II Corinthians the 11th chapter and beginning along, let me see a little farther along, **they are the ministers of Satan the devil, but they pose as the ministers of Christ. They say He was Christ, but they don't speak much about any connection with God, and they don't want anything to do with God's Law, and they think the blood of Christ saves you.**



Now in Romans 5 [verses 9-10] you will read that **by the blood of Christ we are RECONCILED TO GOD THE FATHER, but we are SAVED through Christ by His life**, the resurrection, and God is the one who resurrected Christ, and who will resurrect you and me. And of course, Christ now is "of God" and "is God," and He says He has the power to raise us up at the last day also and those things. No wonder they call it a mystery today, and they are so confused in the world today.

But now I would like to go back to the Old Testament and show you what was prophesied to happen. **They got turned**

away to another gospel, and in the book of Malachi, the third chapter and beginning with verse 1, here is a prophecy for our day, "**Behold, I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord, whom you seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the Covenant.**"

That was Jesus Christ. Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant. Jesus came as the Messenger of the New Covenant. Jesus came proclaiming the New Covenant.

"Whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come," saith the LORD of hosts.

But now in Mark [1:1-3] and Luke [1:76-77] and John, you will read of how John the Baptist apparently was the messenger who was to come. John the Baptist was a type of the one it's speaking of here. This is speaking of one coming to prepare the way for the Second Coming of Christ. Now John the Baptist was a messenger crying out, a voice that cried out in the physical wilderness of the Jordan river, preparing the way for a human, physical Jesus, who was to come to a physical, material temple made of stone and wood and other metals and materials, coming to His physical people Judah, who rejected Him, and **coming only to ANNOUNCE that there WOULD come THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE GOVERNMENT.**



“And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver: that they may offer unto the Eternal an offering in righteousness. And, then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD.” When He came the first time, they didn’t offer any offering that was pleasant to Him. They rejected Him, spit in His face, and killed Him or had Him killed.

So this is talking about the Second Coming. **“As in the days of old, and as (in) the former years. And,”** He says, **“I will come near unto you to JUDGMENT.”** He didn’t come to judgment. Then He

But He came as a Lamb, the Lamb of God. He didn’t come to enforce things. He merely came, well He allowed them to spit in His face, to put a crown of thorns on Him, to lash Him, to whip Him, beat Him within an inch of His life, and then go out, hang Him up in the most disgraceful kind of a death on a cross, stab Him with a spear till He bled to death, and they finally did kill Him.

So now notice who it’s talking about here. It’s NOT talking about John the Baptist, **“But who may abide the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap.”**

Now, a refiner’s fire heats. When you find gold or silver, it is mixed up with a lot of other metals and worthless material, and the way you get it, you melt it, and the gold or the silver will dissolve and melt out from the other, and that way you can divide the one from the other, and come out with pure gold or pure silver instead of a motley mixture with a lot of worthless other metals.

And He was talking about burning out the sin of other people here. **“Who may abide the day of His coming? For He is like a refiner’s fire, or fullers’ soap,”** which washes the dirt off, and He would get rid of the sins. Jesus didn’t get rid of the sins when He came. He merely talked about it.

He talks here about the Levites and the priests and others.

They rejected Him. **“I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, against the false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages,”** the widows, and the fatherless, and so on.

So it’s talking there about the Second Coming of Christ.

Now it continues speaking about Him in the fourth chapter, where it says, the last two verses of the entire book of Malachi, the last two verses in the Old Testament, **“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of,”** the Eternal or **“the Day of the Lord, and he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers, LEST I come and smite the earth with a curse.”**

And the Hebrew word there means and is translated in Zechariah and other where as **“a total destruction.”** Smite the earth, in other words, until there is no flesh saved alive, talking about **the Great Tribulation** and that same time.

Now, later on, during the time of that is, during Jesus’ Gospel, He came and said, **“I will build my Church,”** and I want to get into that, again, a little later.

But I'd like to turn now to Matthew the 17th chapter and beginning with verse 1, **"after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart, and was transfigured before them."**

In other words, showing them Himself in the KINGDOM OF GOD and with Him was Moses and Elijah, giving them a glimpse of THE KINGDOM. Now, prior to that, He had said there'd be some standing among you that will not die until they have seen Christ coming in **the Kingdom of God.** Well, this is where they did in this vision of the transfiguration. When they came down, He said, **"Don't tell any man about it until after I've ascended to heaven."**

And then in verse 9, **"As they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them saying, Tell no man, until,"** I have, **"risen again from the dead,"** it was. **"And His disciples asked Him, saying,"** well, **"why then say the scribes that Elijah must first come?"**

Now, at this time, Elijah had already come. I quoted a while ago Mark the first chapter and verse 14, **"Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee."** And that was the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He didn't BEGIN His gospel until after the mission of John the Baptist was completed, and John the Baptist was probably beheaded by the time that is being referred to here. So why does it say that John the Baptist, or that Elijah I mean, must first come?

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, ELIJAH TRULY SHALL FIRST COME," and get this, **"and restore all things. But,"** He continued, **"I say unto you, That Elias is come already,"** referring now to John the Baptist, who came in the power and spirit of Elijah as he said specifically in another place, **"and they knew him not,"** and **"have done unto him whatsoever they listed."**

Well, they put him to death, and he had been beheaded, his head chopped off. They didn't recognize him.

Now it is speaking about a second, just as a Second Coming of Christ, a second coming of a messenger to prepare the way before Him. As John the Baptist was the physical messenger in the physical wilderness of Jordan, so there would be a messenger with a message with a VOICE CRYING OUT in the SPIRITUAL WILDERNESS of the modern 20th Century and the last half of the 20th Century, preparing the way for the great SPIRITUAL JESUS to come to His SPIRITUAL Temple, and you are that Temple, a spiritual Temple!

You will be CHANGED in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, after the dead in Christ rise first and rise with them to meet Christ in the air as He comes. He's coming to His



JOHN THE BAPTIST'S BEHEADING

SPIRITUAL TEMPLE, and we are that Temple, as you read in the last few verses of the second chapter of Ephesians, to a spiritual temple and this time to SET UP the Kingdom of God and to rule.

So He said, **"Elijah truly shall come;"** but He said and **"restore"** things. **Now John the Baptist didn't restore anything.** They already knew about the Law, and he called them to repentance, but he didn't have to give them sermons about what all the Law is.

They knew that. He just called them to repent and turn to another way and baptized them. He was John the Baptist, but this is speaking of one Jesus said after John the Baptist had completed his mission, **"Elijah truly SHALL come and restore all things".**

Now next, he's coming to prepare the way before Christ. I want you to notice Christ is coming to restore all things. So in the third chapter of the book of Acts, this is a day or two after the Church had started. Peter and John were in the Temple.

Peter had healed that cripple, and the crowd came around, and Peter preached to them for some little time and this is Peter talking to them at that time, verse 19, the third chapter of Acts, Peter said, **“Repent you therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, WHEN the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; AND HE SHALL SEND,”** the time when He shall send, **“Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heavens must receive.”** Now He'd ascended up to heaven, and the heavens would receive Him UNTIL a certain time, **“until the times of restitution of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all of His holy prophets since the world began.”**

Now **“restitution,”** look that word up in the dictionary. Restitution means “restoring to a former condition, a former state or condition, restoring what had been taken away, restoring what had been taken away.” So now I ask you, what is Christ coming to restore that had been taken away? What had been taken away was the Government of God, the Government of God, and if you know the whole Bible, that's the whole story of the Bible. That's the whole purpose, everything.

You read, back in Isaiah 14 verses 12-14, and I've gone over it so many times, I'm not going to turn back to it now, but you read there first about the king of Babylon, and then he is a type of the one whom he served and who really ruled over him, who was Satan the devil.

And then the type lifts up to the one that he represented, Satan the devil, and it spoke to him then, beginning with verse 12 in Isaiah 14, calling him **“Lucifer.”** Lucifer was the name of a super archangel, a cherub, and this cherub's wings had spread out over the very throne of God, but he was on a throne, and it was on earth, and he said, **“or the angels, I will ascend into heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars,”** of God.



ANCIENT CITY OF TYRE

Now he had a throne, and he said he would rise above the clouds, so he was under the clouds, and he was on earth and there was a throne on the earth.

Now in Ezekiel 28, also beginning verse 12. verse 1, or in the earlier part of the chapter, it began speaking of “the prince of Tyre.” Now as Babylon was the political capital of the ancient world at that time and the capital of the first great world empire, Tyre was also the commercial capital, where all the ships went by that were transferring freight and merchandise and that sort of thing. It was the New York, you might say, or the London of the ancient world, not the political capital, but the merchandising capital. Tyre folder

There it speaks first of **“the prince of Tyre”** who was the human ruler. Then the type the same way lifts up to the one



MODERN SITE OF TYRE



that represented the Satan the devil, and he's called **"the king of Tyre."** And there it says that he sealed up the sum total of wisdom, perfection and beauty; that he had been CREATED, and he was perfect from the day he was created until iniquity was found in him.

And he was made so beautiful that he became jealous, and full of envy, and also full of vanity, and vanity means he exalted himself above everything, above God, above everything! It means he wanted to be served and not to serve.

He wanted everything to come to him. He wanted to receive. He wanted to get. He wanted to take. God is the great Giver, just the opposite.

Now, prior to this, God had had a Law, but this Lucifer ruled on this earth. He was put on the earth and the throne of the earth. He ruled over the whole earth, and the earth at that time was occupied by angels. You find something of them in the 38th chapter of Job, at the time that Christ created the earth, and the angels were there shouting for joy because they were going to inhabit this earth at the time of its creation.

But in II Peter 2 and verse 4 you read of **"the angels that sinned,"** and in the next verse, you read of the sins between Adam and the time of the Flood, and after that you read of the time later of the great destruction that came to Sodom and Gomorrah. So there's a time sequence there, and it shows the sin of the angels was prior to the creation of the first man, Adam.

Now, as a result of the angels being turned against God, the earth came to a state of decay. But I need to explain a little something here about the government of God. You read in John the first chapter in the New Testament, John 1 and verses 1 to 4 or 5, **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."**

Now, who's the Word? Verse 14 says, **"The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us"** and became Jesus Christ. The Word is the one who was made Jesus Christ.

In other words, the Word was Jesus Christ before His human birth and before He became Jesus Christ, and He was also God. And in the third chapter and the ninth verse of Ephesians, I believe it is, God **"created all things by Jesus Christ."** Jesus obeyed His Father.

Now, They were together. The Word was with God, and the Word was God, and all things were made by Him, the Word, but God made it by Him, and Jesus did only what His Father said.

He was the Word, the Spokesman. He said, **"I've spoken only what My Father commanded and told Me to speak,"** and so He is the one who created man.

Now we turn back to Genesis the first chapter. Well, first I want to explain about the government of God. Two can't walk together except they be agreed.

So They were in absolute harmony, and everywhere in the Bible it shows that Jesus and God the Father were completely as one, of one mind, of one belief, of one agreement, no discord, no disagreement of any kind whatsoever.

Also two cannot walk together except one is the leader. You must have leadership, and God was the Leader and Jesus obeyed His Father. He said, **"I have kept My Father's commandments,"** and He also said He'd set us an example. We should also keep them.

Now, law is merely a way of life. Their way of life was love, cooperation, mutual love and affection. God ruled over Jesus, but it was loving authority, loving authority, and Jesus obeyed in love, and They loved one another, and there was no conflict whatsoever.

It was total cooperation, but God was the Head, and you will find where Christ is the Head of the Church, but God is the Head of Christ, and we must never forget that. So that is the basis of government.

Now a LAW has to be the basis of ANY GOVERNMENT. You can't have government without a law. The basis of the United States is the Constitution, which is a law, and all laws must be according to that basic law, the Constitution. That's the foundational law of all the United States' government, but the basic law of the whole universe is love, L-O-V-E, which is outgoing concern. Outgoing concern toward others, first toward God and then toward our fellow creatures.

Now God and the Word worked. They lived. It said, **"in Them was life,"** if They had life, They lived. If They lived, how did They live? They had to DO something to live.



What did They do? They created. Now, They had a way of creation. How did They create? Well, God created all things by Jesus Christ. God told Him what to do and what to say. He spoke, the Holy Spirit responded and it was done. Now God said in Genesis the first chapter, it says there, **"In the beginning,"** Elohim, which is a plural word meaning Gods, **"created the heavens and the earth."**

Now the word God should be pluralized, or Gods, and the word **"created the heaven"** as it is in the King James, also is translated in every other translation, as far as I know, **"heavens,"** it's plural, **"and the earth,"** and they were all created at the same time. You read in the second chapter of Genesis also.

And in verse 26 of Genesis one, God said and this must have been God saying it to the Word, **"Let Us make man in our image,"** and so God told the Word to do it, and the Word formed man.

And in the second chapter, Yahweh is mentioned, and always speaks of the Word who became Christ, **"formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man,"** dust of the ground, **"became"** a soul, **"a living soul,"** not an immortal soul. So the dust of the ground became a living soul, and God said, **"If you disobey, you will surely die."**

Now the two trees were merely a test of character. The Tree of Life simply meant obeying God, letting God reveal knowledge to you, letting God reveal His Law. The Law is merely the Way of LIVING, and if Adam had taken the Tree of Life, God would have revealed His Way of Living, His Law to Adam.

Now I have never put it quite that way before. Get that firmly in your mind, but what he did, he took to himself the knowledge of good and evil. In other words, he took to himself the way of life. HE MADE HIS OWN LAW of how he would live, but he was influenced by Satan and Satan's way.

Well, what did Satan say to Eve when she came? He didn't say, "Worship me." He didn't say, "Disobey God," even. He said, "Just go do your own thing! Do your own way, use your own head, use your own mind, do what you think is right." And that is the way that Adam took as the law of his life, the way that seemed right to him.

Now God's Word, the Bible, says, **"There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."**

You see, it is the Law of God that tells us which is the right way. That was in the Tree of Life, which Adam rejected. Now God's purpose was to reproduce Himself, to reproduce Himself. But God is, first of all, perfect, spiritual, righteous character, and man could not be made God until the very CHARACTER of God had been implanted within him. And it wouldn't be character unless the man himself made the choice to receive it, and unless it came with the man's not only consent but by his own will even. And yet it had to come from God, and God would give it to him, but a man had to make the decision and want it, and that same thing faces all of us today. You see, all of us have found that the Tree of Life has been opened to us.



Now Adam rejected the Tree of Life and took the Tree of the Knowledge, self-knowledge of what is right and wrong. In other words, of Law or the way of life, and then God closed up the Tree of Life until Christ, the Second Adam, should come. Now that meant the Holy Spirit because human eyes have not seen, human ears have never heard what God has in store for us that love Him. That is in I Corinthians the 2nd chapter and verse 9.

And verse 10 says but God reveals to us what He has, spiritual things ahead for us, **"BY His Spirit that dwells in us."** Now the Spirit doesn't do the revealing. God reveals

it, but He reveals by His Spirit that is in us. Not by His Spirit that He has that He sends to reveal. The Spirit is already in us. His

Word says it. Here's the Word, I read it, and the Spirit lets me understand it. You know the world can't understand this Book, the Bible. It's just a lot of foolishness to them. They don't understand it at all. They don't regard it as the most important Book ever written.

I was talking to some lawyers yesterday. There were three lawyers in the room. I mentioned something about the Bible. One of them said, well, he respected the Bible. I said,

"The Bible is a book of law. It talks about

law from the beginning to the end." Beginning the second chapter, the first book in the Bible Genesis, it talks about God's law and obedience, and clear up to the last chapter in Revelation, it's talking about law, a way of life.

Law regulates conduct. It regulates human performance, or angelic performance if you please, or whatever.

Now Adam made the decision for all of his family that were born from him. Even Eve came out of Adam, and all of us have come then, from Adam, and he made that decision for all of his family, and the Spirit of God, the revelation of SPIRITUAL knowledge and of God's SPIRITUAL law was hidden from people until they couldn't understand it.

Now, it takes love to fulfill that law, but human love won't fulfill it. It takes the love of God **"shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,"** and that's Romans 5 and verse 5, and you can't really fulfill God's law, even if you know what it is, until you have received the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God in you will fulfill it, and very few have that, but that has been opened through Christ to the Church.

Now then, Adam chose his own self way. The Holy Spirit was closed until Christ came. Jesus came, and He said, in Matthew 16:18, **"I will build My Church."**

He's called the Second Adam. Now, He came, and He already had the Holy Spirit. He had what Adam, the first Adam, rejected.

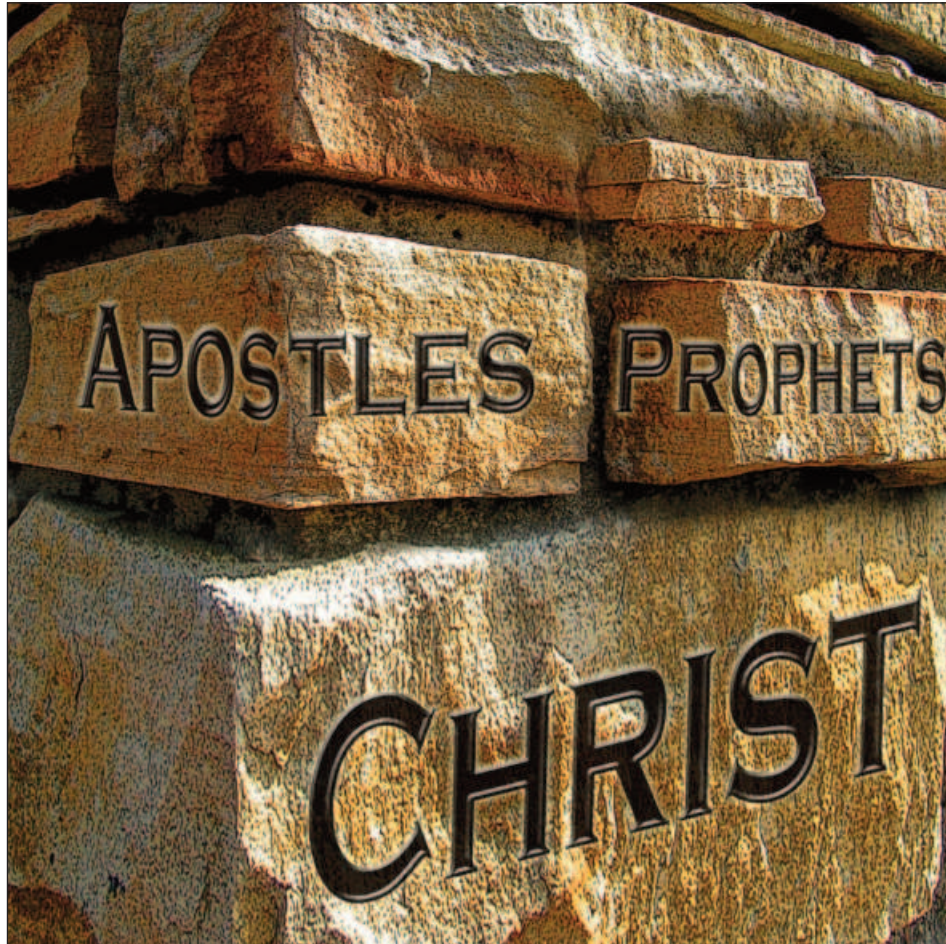
Now He called disciples, and He opened to them the Tree of Life, which had been closed ever since Adam, and He called the 12, and He called them out from the world, which had only a human kind of love and didn't have divine love of the Spirit of God to live separately from the world and live according to God's law, according to God's government, and God's law is the foundation of God's government. And it's a matter of government.

Jesus started the Church. Now I've already quoted to you from Mark 1 and verses 14 and 15, which simply shows that God put government in the Church. Jesus came to restore the government of God. In Isaiah 9 verses 6 and 7, you read that He was to be born as a Child, and **"THE GOVERNMENT would be on His shoulder."** He's going

to take over the government and sit on the throne, where Satan is now sitting, and to rule over the whole world. Well, when He came He called a SMALL nucleus, the small embryo, to begin a Church, starting as He explained, small as a grain of mustard seed, but to grow till it fills the whole earth ultimately. Ultimately the whole earth is going to be filled with the people of God. Did you

know that? Now it's almost filled with the people of Satan, but it is **"for the elect's sake"** that this world is going to be spared.

Now in Revelation 2:26 and 27 and Revelation 3:21 you read that, if we that are called into the Church, to whom the Tree of Life is opened, and we have accepted the Tree of Life and the Spirit of God, if we overcome and we grow in grace and knowledge, and we overcome and en-



sure, we shall be given, we'll rule with Christ on His throne when He comes to TAKE that throne of the earth away from Satan. We will be given power over the nations, and we shall RULE them with a rod of iron, and it is only the called who can come. All through the New Testament you read Jesus called His disciples. It is those that are called, and they're called out of this world.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter said, when they wanted to know what to do, he said, "Repent, and be baptized into Jesus Christ," every one of you, **"for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the Holy Spirit. For the promise,"** of the Spirit of God, "is unto you, and to your children ... as many as the Lord our God shall call."



God has to call us. Jesus said, in John 6:44, **“No man CAN come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draws him.” God CHOOSES the one He’s going to call. Judgment is on us now!** When Christ comes, He’s coming to JUDGMENT! Then judgment will be on all that are still living on earth. Judgment now is only on those that are called, in the Church, and we need to understand that, but **we’re being called to become teachers, and we’re going to rule, and we’re going to judge.**

Now, I explained about the government of the United States a while ago. God is the Lawgiver, but Jesus is in the office of president or the executive, but Jesus also is given the Judgeship, and even in the United States government, the president appoints the Supreme Court justices, so there’s quite a similarity there.

But it is only the called that can receive the Spirit of God NOW, that’s just a question of when and **we are the first-fruits**. The rest of the world will be called later. In Ephesians 1 verses 9 to 12 you learn **we’re the firstfruits**. Also it’s explained and predestination is explained, in Romans the 8th chapter.

Now, the Gospel was suppressed, and as I say, they turned to a gospel ABOUT Christ, but they have not talked of His message, and His message talked about God as being the Supreme Ruler, and His message had to do with the Government of God, and God is the Law-

giver. And when you sin, it is the sin is the transgression of the Law, and that has cut you off from GOD THE FATHER.

But what are the Protestant preachers preaching? “Just receive Jesus Christ, and you’re already born again.” POPPYCOCK! THEY ARE WRONG! THEY ARE IN ERROR. THAT IS THE TEACHING THAT SATAN THE DEVIL HAS GIVEN THEM. That alone is not enough! That’s a start, but it’s not enough. It takes far more. The world has lost the purpose of God. **THEY HAVE LOST ALL KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, WHICH IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD.** They have lost all of these things.

Now then, coming back to what I was saying in the beginning. Oh yes, I was showing the Church is persecuted, Revelation 12 verses 5 and 6, and so on, and **they’ve had a false gospel.**

Elijah was to come and restore things. Jesus is going to come and restore the government and, through the government everything, but WHAT was Elijah to restore? And brethren, HAS it happened yet? HAS it been restored? And what was restored?

THE TRUE GOSPEL

The world had lost the gospel. They didn’t know what the gospel was. I came among the true Church of God of the Sardis era. They didn’t know what the gospel was. They thought it was what they called a “third angel’s message.” They didn’t know what the gospel really was. They called it a “third angel’s message.” God revealed it to me, and through me to the Church, that **THE GOSPEL IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD.** **That is the gospel Jesus preached. That’s the gospel Paul preached to the Gentiles. That’s the gospel that Peter and John preached,** and



you'll find when Jesus sent them out, and sent out the 70, He said, **"PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD."** **That is the only Gospel.** It is the Gospel OF Jesus Christ. The world preached and has a gospel about Christ. **Now the first thing to be restored to the Church is the TRUE GOSPEL.**

THE PURPOSE OF GOD

The second thing to be restored is the purpose of God, and the Gospel has to do with that, that God is reproducing us, and that **MAN CAN BECOME GOD.** No



other church on earth believes that, brethren. And now let me tell you I'm going to reveal to you now things that have been restored in this Church, and let me tell you, these are all things that some of those who have been MINISTERS in this Church, in HIGH OFFICE, have gone out and now are saying, and saying publicly, that we are departing from the faith and that we are going farther and farther into error because they will NOT receive the truths that God has been restoring into the Church. **God's purpose is that He is reproducing Himself, and that we ultimately become God.**

HOLY DAYS REVEAL GOD'S PLAN

Now another thing that has been restored is through the Holy Days, God's Plan, His master plan for accomplishing that purpose, and the annual Holy Days. And no



other church has had those Holy Days and understands them. All right, what's the next thing restored? I'm saying, I don't think these are in any special order. But the next one I have listed anyway, if I can even read my own writing. Well, the true Church has kept the commandments of God and the true name, and the Sardis era did have that. And many of them had tithing, but they didn't all even believe

in tithing, but I think you could say the Church did, and God's true Church has believed those three things through most of the time, but many of these other things had to be restored to the Church, which had been lost. That the end time was coming after World War I: Malachi 3:1-5, well I just read that to you. But to go on with the things that have been restored. Let's see, the Gospel, and **THE TRUE GOSPEL** was first preached to the world precisely 100 time cycles after it was lost in 53 AD. It went out to the world on Radio Luxembourg in Europe for the first time. It had gone coast to coast in the United States and Canada, and then it went to all of Europe 1900 years after Paul wrote in Galatians 1 that they had turned to another gospel, a century of time cycles.

GOVERNMENT OF GOD

The government of God has been restored to the Church, and the government of God has been placed in the Church! You read that in Ephesians 4 and I Corinthians



ans 12. Christ is the Head of the Church, and under Christ in the administration of the government are an apostle or apostles, then evangelists, then pastors, then all are called elders, all ministers, all the way up and clear down to the lowest, so then there are teachers and elders, both speaking elders and preaching elders, deacons and deaconesses, and the Church is restored in that form of government. Sardis Church, even, didn't have the right form of government. The purpose of God, that we can be born into the Kingdom of God and the Family of God and become God. That knowledge has been restored to the Church.

WHO AND WHAT GOD IS

Who and what God IS. NO RELIGION ON EARTH KNOWS WHO AND WHAT GOD IS! No religion on earth! Billy Gra-



ham doesn't know it. Jerry Falwell doesn't know it. Roman Catholics don't know. **God is NOT a Trinity! God is NOT a single person. God IS a FAMILY of persons, and the Family began with God and the Word,** and you read of that in John 1 verses 1 to 5. You read of it in Genesis 1, beginning with verse 1. You should learn about God first, and it begins first both in the New Testament and the Old because many experts feel, that is so-called experts, let me add, that the book of John should be placed first in the New Testament although it was not written first, that God is a Family, and it began with the Two, and we can be born into that Family.

WHAT AND WHY IS MAN?

Now the next thing that's restored to the Church, what and why man is. WHAT IS MAN?

Why did we come to be on earth? The Sardis Church didn't

know. They

didn't know in the Middle Ages. Man was made from the dust of the ground. Man was made with one spirit, and he needs another Spirit, the Spirit of God, which unites him with God and is the impregnation of God life in him, and he will be born of God.



SPIRIT IN MAN

Next the human spirit IN man. No other church knows about that. That has been REVEALED to the Church. That is knowledge that has been RESTORED to the Church of God, and this Church has that knowledge.



FIRSTFRUITS

Another, the next piece of knowledge that has been RESTORED to this Church, that the rest don't know and no

other church knows it, that **this Church is the FIRSTFRUITS,**

that God is not trying to save the whole world now. He's calling us out now, and He'll use us as

teachers to help save the others in their turn, and they in turn from the Millennium will help save all the rest in the Great White Throne Judgment. And ultimately God is going to go after the saving of everybody who ever lived, but no church understands that, that **we are the Firstfruits, we are the embryo of THE KINGDOM OF GOD.** The fact that we have to be CALLED by God, and that salvation is not open to just anyone whosoever will. The "whosoever will may come" is found in the last chapter of the Bible, and does not pertain to this time at all, and no other church seems to know that. That knowledge has been restored to this Church.



KNOWLEDGE OF THE MILLENNIUM

The knowledge of the Millennium and what it is. Now the Sardis people knew that Christ would rule a thousand years. They knew it would be a Mil-

lennium. They had NO IDEA IN THE WORLD about what would happen in the Millennium. They had NO IDEA what is the purpose of the Millennium. We know, and we assemble for the Feast of Tabernacles.



That's what we're celebrating, and we know what's going to happen in the Millennium, and that salvation will be opened then to all that are still alive, but it is not open to all now. No other church knows that. These are things that YOU, brethren, are PRIVILEGED to know. You, God has blessed you with this knowledge, has RESTORED this knowledge to you!

TRUTH ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

Now, truth regarding the Holy Spirit, and the fact that we are BE-GOTTEN NOW. You're NOT born yet, only begot ten.



BORN AGAIN AT RESURRECTION

That we will become born at the time of the Second Coming of Christ, when this mortal puts on immortality, when we won't be human any longer. We'll be divine. The knowledge that he that is "born of the flesh IS flesh," mortal, and that's what we are. That is, that when you are BORN of the Spirit, you will BE SPIRIT!



IDENTITY OF ISRAEL

Another thing restored to us is our own roots, our identity, WHO E ARE! We RE the tribe of Manasseh of the lost Ten Tribes of Israel, and no other church on earth



knows it. That knowledge has been RESTORED into this Church, and God restored that to me 53 years ago.

PROPHETIC UNDERSTANDING

Our identity, and that opens all the doors of one third of the whole Bible – PROPHECY. You can't understand without that knowledge. That opened up a whole third of the Bible, which is prophecy. That's a third of the Bible, and so a third of the Bible and the understanding of prophecy has been

opened to THIS Church, that has been restored to this Church. Has God sent someone to RESTORE KNOWLEDGE to this Church, brethren? I'm not tooting any horns.

I'm just telling you what has actually HAPPENED, and you know it's happened! The fact of the annual Festivals, that they represent God's plan.



SECOND AND THIRD TITHE

The second and third tithe, what other church knows about that? That was restored by this Church, that knowledge restored by this Church.



IDENTITY OF BABYLON, AND HER DAUGHTERS

Then the great deception, the counterfeit of Revelation 17:5: "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH," her daughter churches, and who they are.



SATAN'S DECEPTION

And the fact that Satan the devil has deceived the whole world. Brethren, Satan is the one who is



guilty. Those people in the Catholic Church and the Protestant churches have been deceived, and I think they really believe. God just hasn't opened any more truth to them. We don't sit in judgment of them. We're not judging them yet. We're going to do it, and when we judge them, then all truth will be open, and God will take away the blindness from their eyes so they can understand, if they're willing. Today they couldn't understand it, even if they're willing. I don't think they're willing, either, far as that goes.

WE ARE TO BE SEPARATE

And how, in Revelation 18:4, that God has called us OUT from among them to be separate.

[In addition to these doctrines there are others that Jesus Christ used him to restore within His Church. They can be found on our website; www.cog-ff.com -- ADB]

Well brethren, all those things have been restored, and there is a mission for this Church that never applied and has never been done by any other Church, this “**GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM,**” has been restored and “shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations.”

Has that been done? Has that been restored? Is that gospel going out to the world? But thanks and praise to God! He has restored knowledge. That is all God's doing. None of us can be anything more than human instruments.

If I have been willing to do anything, it is only because God Himself brought about circumstances to compel me and make me willing, whether I wanted to be or not, and even then I can take no credit whatsoever. It was all the doing of God, through Jesus Christ.

But remember this, the Protestant churches they just have Christ. We have to come to God by way of Christ, and Jesus taught us, when you pray, pray, **“Our Father which art in Heaven,”** and we pray in the NAME of Jesus Christ. He said whatsoever we ask the Father in HIS NAME, the name of Christ, God will do, if we ask in faith, believing. We must ask what God has promised to do. Remember that faith is simply believing that God will not lie, and that what God has promised, He will perform. So let's be thankful. Let's praise God for it. Let's give all thanks to God Almighty the Father!



A very small amount was edited out of this sermon due to the length of it while trying to fit it in the magazine. However, the continuity of the subject has not been affected. Those who would like to receive the complete sermon are encouraged to write and request it from us.

Edited by Alton “Don” Billingsley





‘How the Mighty Have Fallen!’

William Shakespeare, the renowned English poet and playwright, penned the famous phrase, “All the world’s a stage.” During 2011, the world witnessed a dramatic change in the cast of leaders who had dominated that stage for many years with presidents, prime ministers and dictators toppling like bowling tenpins!

The astonishing overthrow of so many world leaders in rapid succession brings to mind King David’s exclamation upon learning that Saul and Jonathan were slain in battle by the Philistines: “How the mighty have fallen!” (II Samuel 1:19, 25, 27)”

2012 also promises to be a turbulent year with more twists and turns in global developments likely to astound people in North America, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the rest of the world as different performers wait in the wings to stride onto the scene. The stage has been set for the curtain to rise on more upheavals and turmoil!

Old Testament prophecies show that prior to Jesus Christ’s return when he comes to His spiritual temple, God says, “I will shake all nations (Haggai 2:7-9).”

The Hebrew word for “shake” in this verse comes from the root Hebrew word “ra’ash,” which also can mean vibration,

undulation, uproar, commotion, confused noise, earthquake, fierceness and rattling.

In only a matter of weeks in 2011, the governments of several European governments were ousted due to a sovereign debt crisis that threatens the European Union’s very existence and the future of the euro, the single currency shared by 17 of the EU’s 27 members in the so-called “euro zone.”

“The Spanish government will be the fifth in the euro zone, after Ireland, Portugal, Greece and Italy, to fall as a direct result of the crisis. Elections were called earlier than scheduled after ratings agencies took to lowering the country’s credibility rating,” the *EU Observer* reported in mid-November.

“Worries that Spain might become the fourth country in the euro zone to seek financial assistance were deepened this week when the cost of borrowing money briefly breached seven percent, the level at which Greece, Ireland and Portugal were forced to ask for rescues.”

France24, a French news agency, reported on Nov. 29: “The economic crisis has created a new political rule: Out go the incumbents! Last Sunday, the Socialists in Spain were the last ruling party to be swept out of power. The debt crisis and austerity packages are bringing down one government after the other, from the north to the south, from the left to the right. Does this mean (French President) Nicolas Sarkozy’s re-election bid next spring is doomed?”



Violent Arab uprisings throughout North Africa and the Middle East in 2011 also overthrew well-established leaders like Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Moammar Ghadafi of Libya, Zine El Abdine Ben Ali of Tunisia and Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen, dramatically shifting the balance of power in those volatile regions toward Muslim extremists.

In an article titled “2011: The Year Some Pillars of World Order Shook,” the Associated Press reported on Dec. 16: “The Arab Spring swept across the Middle East, toppling dictators in a rolling surge of street protest. Europe’s currency plunged into crisis, bringing down elected prime ministers. ... Even in an era of change and moment-to-moment communications across the planet, 2011 felt extraordinary. Week after week, month after month, across continents and oceans, the news just kept on coming.”

“At times the post-World War II, post-colonial, post-Cold War dispensation seemed to tremble under shows of people power not seen in the 22 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall. By year’s end at least three Arab leaders were gone, and at least three European prime ministers had been toppled by the upheaval over the euro, a currency that was supposed to symbolize a strengthened, united Europe.”

The AP also cited daily demonstrations against President Bashar Assad in Syria, where more than 5,000 citizens have been gunned down; street battles breaking out in the island kingdom of Bahrain, plus Jordan and Israel seeing thousands protesting en masse against their governments. Tens of thousands of Russians also participated in unprecedented demonstrations against Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

The Dec. 17 death of Kim Jong-il, North Korea’s iron-fisted dictator for nearly 20 years, heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula, which is armed to the teeth. Marxist dictators Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, both in ill health, also could leave vacuums in Latin America should they die soon.



Dr. Martin D. Weiss, publisher of *Safe Money*, a financial newsletter, predicted on the “Money and Markets” web site: “... the convergence of already-obvious economic forces is destined to make 2012 one of the most dramatic years of the century. It’s the year when the European debt crisis is likely to reach a climax ... when the U.S. budget battle will probably spill over into financial markets ... when the world’s largest banks will face their Day of Reckoning ... and, whether by austerity or inflation, when the majority of the world’s citizens could be forced to make some of the greatest sacrifices of modern times. Not coincidentally,

2012 is also the year ... when the government of the world’s only superpower (the USA) could suffer its worst gridlock, as a highly polarized electorate chooses its next president ...”

American voters in 2012 will participate in one of the most crucial U.S. presidential elections ever as the nation struggles with a crisis in leadership, a mountain of unsustainable deficits and high unemployment strangling the U.S. economy.

Since Barack Obama took office in January 2009, the U.S. national debt has swollen by nearly \$5 trillion! When he assumed the presidency, the red ink topped off at \$10.6 trillion, but it is now estimated at a staggering \$15 trillion with no end in sight for \$1 trillion annual budget hemorrhaging!

“It’s the most rapid increase in the debt under any U.S. president. The national debt increased \$4.9 trillion during the eight-year presidency of George W. Bush. The debt now is rising at a pace to surpass that amount during Mr. Obama’s four-year term,” CBS News reported in August.

Meanwhile, a lackluster slate of Republican presidential candidates offers few viable solutions to resolve the nation’s insurmountable host of problems.

The Prophet Isaiah foresaw this dilemma when he prophesied the Eternal God would remove the nation’s strong leadership. Candidates would be selected more for their charisma or appearance than qualifications. As a result, oppression thrives.

“I will give children (*boys*) to be their princes, and babes (*capricious ones*) shall rule over them. The people will be oppressed, everyone by another and every one by his neighbor; The child will be insolent toward the elder, and the base (*despised, lightly esteemed*) toward the honorable. When a man takes hold of his brother in the house of his father, saying, ‘You have clothing; You be our ruler, and let these ruins be under your power,’ in that day he will protest, saying, ‘I cannot cure your ills, for in my house is neither food nor clothing; Do not make me a ruler of the people.’ ... As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths (Isaiah 3:4-7, 12).”

Global financial markets and governments are still reeling from 2008’s economic meltdown, not fully recovering, yet bankers, economists and politicians falsely assure citizens that a recovery is under way and conditions are improving. Isaiah also predicted this denial of reality.

“The LORD sent a word against Jacob, and it has fallen on Israel. All the people will know ... who say in pride and arrogance of heart. The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with hewn stones; the sycamores are cut down, but we will replace them with cedars (Isaiah 9:8-10).”

Both the U.S. and European economies are wobbling under massive debt and are on the verge of absolute collapse! The Bible shows an entirely new economic system will emerge from a “bottomless pit” on the European continent with the seventh and last resurrection of the so-called Holy Roman Empire. The economic and military might of this revived empire will astound the world! (Revelation 9:1-3, 11:7, 13:1-4, 18:3)

“And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast (Revelation 17:12-13).”



FIVE U.S. PRESIDENTS

In the Bible, “king” and “kingdom” are used interchangeably. It shows that the European Union’s existing configuration of 27 countries will undergo a major restructuring that will centralize power with 10 countries surrendering their sovereignty to “the Beast.” Even now, news reports are focusing on a core group of nine or 10 European countries driving a move to prevent the EU from disintegrating.

The *EU Observer* reported on Dec. 16: “The first draft of a new treaty meant to tighten economic governance in euro zone countries was circulated Friday with the aim to have the text finalized by January and coming into force once nine countries have ratified it. ... Following the UK’s refusal to allow full-blown treaty change, the pact is an inter-governmental treaty for the 17 euro states plus up to nine of the non-euro countries who have all indicated they will attempt to come on board.” The *New York Times* reported the new treaty could take effect the first of January once the ratification by nine countries is secured.

Meanwhile, German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s remaining time in office appears numbered because many Germans are unhappy with her policies for fear she could be jeopardizing Germany’s economic success by committing their nation to bailing out deeply indebted European countries such as Greece.

“Frequently dubbed Germany’s ‘Iron Lady’ and hailed as the country’s answer to former UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the euro crisis has now left Merkel’s image looking decidedly rusty,” CNN reported on Aug. 17.

The Bible indicates that a domineering German or modern Assyrian will be the supreme leader of the last revival of the Roman Empire in Europe. The Prophet Isaiah refers to this final emperor as the “King of Assyria.” The Prophet Daniel refers to him as the “King of the North.” The Book of Revelation refers to him as “the Beast.” Like Otto Von Bismarck, he could be considered “an Iron Chancellor.”

The Prophet Daniel describes that empire “as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters all things; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others (Daniel 2:40).” He also describes it as a monstrous beast “dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It has huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the other beasts before it, and it had ten horns (Daniel 7:7).” It “shall devour the whole earth (v. 23).”

The Bible shows “the ten horns are ten kings (v.24).” Horns and beasts prophetically are synonymous with kings or kingdoms. Daniel also indicates the end-time despot spearheading this European conglomerate will be a genius in finances, politics and military affairs. Adolph Hitler, “Der Fuehrer” of Nazi Germany, was a type of this “Beast.” Hitler was legitimately appointed chancellor of Germany in 1933, but quickly seized absolute dictatorial power.

The final Roman emperor or king or tyrant, likewise, “shall arise, having fierce features (*countenance*), who understands sinister schemes. His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power (*satanic*); He shall destroy fearfully (*extraordinarily*), and shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. Through his cunning he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; and he shall magnify himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in prosperity (Daniel 8:23-25).”

In Revelation 13, this resurrected military/political/economic colossus is described as “a beast rising out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns ... So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’ ... And it was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue and nation (v. 1, 4, 7).”



In this same chapter, another beast came out of the earth, “and he had two horns like a lamb (*appearing harmless and righteous, but*) spoke like a dragon ... He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs ... (v. 11, 13-14).”

This beast is a powerful religious organization different from its militarized political counterpart, but working closely in tandem with it. It is represented in Daniel 7 as “another horn” that arises from the Roman Empire. The leader of this influential church speaks pompously against God, persecutes God’s saints, and changes times and laws (v. 24-25). The Apostle Paul calls him “the man of sin,” “the son of perdition” and “the lawless one” who exalts himself as if he is God, working signs and lying wonders with the power of Satan (II Thessalonians 2:3-4, 8-9).

Ultimately, this Beast and False Prophet will be captured as villains at Christ’s Second Coming and will be “cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone (Revelation 19:19-20),” but not before they inflict unfathomable death and destruction on the world.

The Associated Press reported on Dec. 17 that “Pope Benedict XVI seems worn out. People who have spent time with him recently say they found him weaker

than they’d ever seen him, seemingly too tired to engage with what they were saying. He no longer meets individually with visiting bishops. A few weeks ago he started using a moving platform to spare him the long walk down St. Peter’s Basilica.” News media have been speculating the pontiff may retire in April when he turns 85.

The year 2011 saw numerous prominent leaders dramatically deposed, drastically altering the world’s geopolitical landscape, jolted repeatedly by strong aftershocks. Keep your eyes on Berlin and Rome!

Should Angela Merkel be ousted and the pope retire or expire, new leaders with sharply different personalities and ambitions could take center stage at a time of seething economic chaos and political mayhem.

While initially their roles will be widely applauded by millions, the final act will quickly turn into a tragedy that will mean curtains for the national interests of the United States, Britain and, indeed, the rest of the western world and beyond!

– Mark Mendiola



CHURCH OF GOD – FAITHFUL FLOCK
P.O. Box 130
Valley Springs, CA 95252



Below are web sites made available by the Church of God – Faithful Flock as Bible resource tools.

Church of God Faithful Flock
www.cog-ff.com

Watchman for the House of Israel
www.ezekielwatchman.org

World News Bulletin
www.worldnewsbulletin.com

Lost 10 Tribes of Israel
www.losttribes.org

The Ten Commandments
www.10commandments.ws

Prophetic Events
www.propheticevents.us

What Do You Mean Born Again?
www.begotten.net

Restored Truths of God
www.restoredtruths.net

Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days?
www.holy-days.org

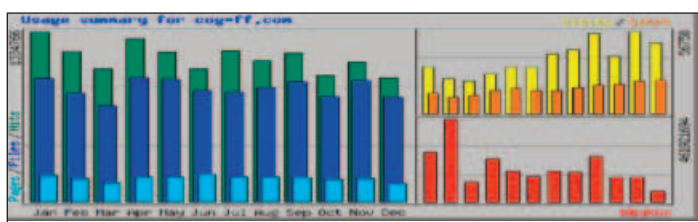
Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?
www.sabbathcentral.com

Herbert W. Armstrong – Apostle of God
www.herbertarmstrong.net

COGFF – Home School Association
www.coghomeschool.org

Herbert W. Armstrong – His Life & Work
www.herbertwarmstrong.info

An Open Letter to the Scattered Flock
www.bodyofchristonline.us



A record 56,758 web site visits in November!

Listen to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong on:

LIVE 365.COM

Sponsored by Church of God-Faithful Flock